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# ANNOTATIONS

BY

SAM. JOHNSON & GEO. STEEVENS,

AND

THE VARIOUS COMMENTATORS,

UPON

KING HENRY V.

WRITTEN BY

WILL. SHAKSPERE.

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—SIC ITUR AD ASTRA.

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*A N N O T A T I O N S*  
U P O N  
K I N G H E N R Y V.

---

*DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.*

ARCHBISHOP CHICHLEY.

STEE VEN

John Fordham, consecrated, 1388, died 1426.

REED.

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C H O R U S.

1. *O for a muse of fire, &c.*] This goes upon the notion of the Peripatetick system, which imagines several heavens one above another; the last and highest of which was one of fire.      **WARBURTON.**

A ij

It



It alludes likewise to the aspiring nature of fire, which by its levity, at the separation of the chaos, took the highest seat of all the elements. JOHNSON.

3. ———princes to act,  
And monarchs to behold————]

Shakspeare does not seem to set distance enough between the performers and spectators. JOHNSON

7. *Leash'd in like hounds, should famine, sword, and fire,*

*Crouch for employment.————]*, In *K. Henry VI.* “Lean famine, quartering steel, and climbing fire,” are called the three attendants on the English general, Lord Talbot; and, as I suppose, are the *dogs of war* mentioned in *Julius Cæsar*.

This image of the warlike Henry very much resembles *Montfaucon's* description of the *Mars* discovered at *Bresse*, who leads a lion and a lioness in couples, and crouching as for employment.

TOLLET.

Warner, in his *Albion's England*, 1602, speaking of *K. Henry V.* says: “

“He led good fortune in *a line*, and did but war and win.” Holinshed (p. 567), when the people of Roan petitioned *K. Henry V.* has put this sentiment into his mouth: “He declared that the goddess of battell, called *Bellona*, had three hand-maidens, ever of necessitie attending upon her, as *blood, fire, and famine*.”

STEEVENS.

13. *Within this wooden O,————]* Nothing shews more  
more



more evidently the power of custom over language, than that the frequent use of calling a circle an *O*, could so much hide the meanness of the metaphor from Shakspeare, that he has used it many times where he makes his most eager attempts at dignity of style.

JOHNSON.

*Within this wooden O,——*] an allusion to the theatre where this *History* was exhibited, being, from its circular form, called the *globe*. The same expression is applied for the like reason, to the *world*, in *Antony and Cleopatra*:

A sun and moon which kept their course,  
And lighted the little *o*, the earth.

I know not whether Shakspeare calls the Globe-playhouse a *cock-pit*, from its being a *round* building, or else from its serving that purpose also : the latter appears probable, from his styling the floor an *unworthy scaffold*, which suggests the idea of its being temporary, and that the edifice answered both turns, by means of a slight alteration.

HENLEY.

13. *The very casques.*] The helmets. JOHNSON.

18. *Imaginary forces——*] *Imaginary* for *imaginative*, or your powers of fancy. Active and passive words are by this author frequently confounded.

JOHNSON.

21. *Whose high upreared and abutting fronts*  
*The perilous narrow ocean parts asunder.*]

*Perilous narrow*, in burlesque and common language, meant no more than *very narrow*. In old books this mode of expression occurs perpetually.



*A perilous broad brim to a hat, a perilous long sword, &c. So, in Beaumont and Fletcher's Humorous Lieutenant:*

“ She is *perilous* crafty.”

Thus, *villanous* is only used to exaggerate, in the *Tempest*:

“ ———be turn'd to barnacles or apes

“ With foreheads *villanous* low.”

Again, in John Florio's *Preface to his translation of Montaigne*:

“ ———in this *perilous* crook'd passage——.”

STEEVENS.

25. *And make imaginary puissance:]* This shews that Shakspeare was fully sensible of the absurdity of shewing battles on the theatre, which indeed is never done but tragedy becomes farce. Nothing can be represented to the eye, but by something like it, and *within a wood* O nothing very like a battle can be exhibited.

JOHNSON.

Other authors of that age seem to have been sensible of the same absurdities. In Heywood's *Fair Maid of the West*, 1631, a Chorus enters and says,

“ Our stage so lamely can express a sea,

“ That we are forc'd by Chorus to discourse

“ What should have been in action, &c.”

STEEVENS.

28. *For 'tis your thoughts, that now must deck our kings.*

*Carry them here and there;———]* We may read



read *king* for *kings*. The prologue relates only to this single play. The mistake was made by referring *them* to *kings* which belongs to *thoughts*. The sense is, *your thoughts must give the king his proper greatness; carry therefore your thoughts here and there, jumping over time, and crowding years into an hour.*

JOHNSON.

I am not sure that Dr. Johnson's observation is just. In this play, the king of France as well as England makes his appearance; and the sense may be this;—*it must be to your imaginations that our kings are indebted for their royalty.* Let the fancy of the spectator furnish out those appendages to greatness which the poverty of our stage is unable to supply.

The poet is still apologizing for the defects of theatrical representation.

STEEVENS.

## ACT I.

1. *Archbishop of Canterbury.*] This first scene was added since the edition of 1608, which is much short of the present editions, wherein the speeches are generally enlarged, and raised: several whole scenes besides, and all the choruses also, were since added by Shakspeare.

POPE.

On this subject a play was written about the time  
of



of Shakspeare ; but whether before or after his *Henry V.* made its appearance, has not yet been absolutely determined. (It is thus entered in the books of the Stationer's company. "Tho. Strode, May 2, 1594. A booke entituled the famous Victories of Henry the Fift, containing the honorable Battell of Agincourt." There are two more entries of a play of *Henry V.* viz. between 1596 and 1615, and one August 14th, 1603.) I have two copies of it in my possession : one without date (which seems much the elder of the two) and another (apparently printed from it) dated 1617, though printed by Bernard Alsop (who was printer of the other edition), and sold by the same person and at the same place. Alsop appears to have been a printer before the year 1600, and was afterwards one of the twenty appointed by decree of the star-chamber to print for this kingdom. I believe, however, this piece to have been prior to that of Shakspeare for several reasons : First, because it is highly probable that it is the very "displeasing play" alluded to in the epilogue to the second part of *K. Henry IV.*—for *Oldcastle died a martyr*. Oldcastle is the Falstaff of the piece, which is despicable, and full of ribaldry and impiety from the first scene to the last.—Secondly, because Shakspeare seems to have taken not a few hints from it ; for it comprehends in some measure the story of the two parts of *Henry IV.* as well as of *Henry V.* and no ignorance, I think, could debase the gold of Shakspeare into such dross, though



though no chemistry but that of Shakspeare could exalt such base metal into gold.—When the Prince of Wales in *Henry IV.* calls Falstaff *my old lad of the Castle*, it is probably but a sneering allusion to the deserved fate which this performance met with ; for there is no proof that our poet was ever obliged to change the name of Oldcastle into that of Falstaff, though there is an absolute certainty that this piece must have been condemned by any audience before whom it was ever represented.

Lastly, because it appears (as Dr. Farmer has observed) from the jests of the famous comedian Tarlton, 4to. 1611, that he had been particularly celebrated in the part of the Clown \* in *Henry V.* and though his character does not exist in our play, we find it in the other, which, for the reasons already enumerated, I suppose to have been prior to this.

\* Mr. Oldys, in a manuscript note in his copy of Langbaine, says, that Tarlton appeared in the character of the Judge who receives the box on the ear. 'This Judge is likewise a character in the old play. I may add, on the authority of the books at Stationers-Hall, that Tarlton published what he called his *Farewell*, a ballad, in Sept. 1588. In Oct. 1589, was entered, "*Tarlton's Repentance, and his Farewell to his Friends in his Sickness, a little before his Death;*" in 1590, "*Tarlton's Newes out of Purgatorie:*" and in the same year, "*A pleasaunt Ditty Dialogue-wise, between Tarlton's Ghost and Robyn Goodfellowe.*"

This



This anonymous play of *Henry V.* is neither divided into acts or scenes, is uncommonly short, and has all the appearance of having been imperfectly taken down during the representation. As much of it appears to have been omitted, we may suppose that the author did not think it convenient for his reputation to publish a more ample copy.

There is, indeed, a play, called *Sir Jahn Oldcastle*, published in 1600, with the name of *William Shakspeare* prefixed to it. The prologue being very short, I shall quote it, as it serves to prove, that a former piece, in which the character of *Oldcastle* was introduced, had given great offence :

- “ The doubtfull title (gentlemen) prefixt  
 “ Upon the argument we have in hand,  
 “ May breed suspense, and wrongfully disturbe  
 “ The peaceful quiet of your settled thoughts :  
 “ To stop with scruple, let this breefe suffice.  
 “ It is no *pamper'd glutton* we present,  
 “ Nor *aged counsellour to youthful sinne* ;  
 “ But one, whose vertue shone above the rest,  
 “ A valiant martyr, and a vertuous peere,  
 “ In whose true faith and loyalty exprest  
 “ Unto his soveraigne, and his countries weale ;  
 “ We strive to pay that tribute of our love  
 “ Your favours merit : let faire truth be grac'd,  
 “ Since forg'd invention further time defac'd.

STEEVENS.

4. —the scrambling and unquiet time.] In the  
 old



old household book of the fifth earl of Northumberland, there is a particular section appointing the order of service for the *scambling* days in lent, that is, days on which no regular meals were provided, but every one *scambled*, i. e. *scrambled* and shifted for himself as well as he could.—So, in the old noted book, entitled, “Leicester’s *Commonwealth*,” one of the marginal heads is, “*Scambling* between Leicester and Huntington at the upshot.” Where in the text, the author says, “Hastings, for ought I see, when he cometh to the *scambling*, is like to have no better luck by the bear [Leicester] then his ancestor had by the boare [K. Richard III.],” edit. 1641, 12mo. p. 87. So, again, Shakspeare himself makes K. Henry V. say to the Princess Katharine, “I get thee with *scambling*, and thou must therefore prove a good soldier breeder.” Act V.

PERCY.

Shakspeare uses the same word in *Much Ado about Nothing*,

“*Scambling*, out-facing, fashion-mong’ring boys.”

Again, in the *Merry Devil of Edmonton*, 1626 :

“Leave us to *scamble* for her getting out.”

STEEVENS.

29. *Consideration like an angel, &c.*] As paradise, when sin and Adam were driven out by the angel, became the habitation of celestial spirits, so the king’s heart, since *consideration* has driven out his follies, is now the receptacle of wisdom and of virtue.

JOHNSON.

*Never*



34. *Never came reformation in a flood,*] Alluding to the method by which Hercules cleansed the famous stables, when he turned a river through them. Hercules still is in our author's head when he mentions the Hydra. JOHNSON.

50. *The air, &c.*] This line is exquisitely beautiful. JOHNSON.

The same thought occurs in *As You Like it*, act ii. scene 7.

“——I must have liberty

“Withal, *as large a charter as the wind,*

“To blow on whom I please.” MALONE.

53. *So that the art and practic part of life*] The meaning seems to be this. He discourses with so much skill on all subjects, that *the art and practice of life must be mistress or teacher of his theorique*; that is, that *his theory must have been taught by art and practice*; which, says he, is strange, since he could see little of the true art or practice among his loose companions, nor ever retired to digest his practice into theory; *art* is used by the author for *practice*, as distinguished from *science* or *theory*. JOHNSON.

54. ——*to this theorique*:] *Theorick* is what terminates in speculation. So, in *The Valiant Welchman*, 1615.

“——son *Caradoc*,

“’Tis yet unfit, that on this sudden warning

“You leave your fair wife to the *theorique*

“Of matrimonial pleasure and delight.”

Bookish *theorique* is mentioned in *Othello*. STEEVENS.



62. *The strawberry, &c.*] *i. e.* the wild fruit so called, that grows in the woods. STEEVENS.

68. —*crescive in his faculty.*] Increasing in its proper power. JOHNSON,

“*Grew like the summer grass, fastest by night,*

“*Unseen, yet crescive in his faculty.*”]

“*Crescit occulto velut arbor ævo*

“*Fama Marcelli.*”

*Crescive* is a word used by Drant, in his translation of Horace's *Art of Poetry*, 1567:

“*As lusty youths of crescive age doe flourishe  
freshe and growe.*” STEEVENS.

90. *The severals, and unhidden passages,*] This line I suspect of corruption, though it may be fairly enough explained: the *passages* of his *titles* are the *lines* of *succession* by which his claims descend. *Unhidden* is open, clear. JOHNSON.

105. —*good Uncle.*] John Holland, duke of Exeter, was married to Elizabeth the king's aunt.

STEEVENS.

106. *Shall we call in, &c.*] Here began the old play. POPE.

107. *Not yet, my cousin, &c.*] The quarto, 1600 and 1608, read,

“*Not yet, my cousin; till we be resolv'd*

“*Of some serious matters touching us and France.*”

STEEVENS.

109. —*task*—] Keep busied with scruples and laborious disquisitions. JOHNSON.



119. *Or nicely charge your understanding soul]* Take heed, lest by nice and subtle sophistry you burthen your knowing soul, or *knowingly burthen your soul*, with the guilt of advancing a false title, or of maintaining, by spacious fallacies, a claim which, if shewn in its native and true colours, would appear to be false. JOHNSON.

120. *——miscreate,——]* Ill-begotten, illegitimate, spurious. JOHNSON.

123. *——in approbation.] i. e.* in proving and supporting that title which shall be now set up. So, in Brathwaite's *Survey of Histroies*, 1614, "Composing what he wrote, not by report of others, but by the *approbation* of his own eyes." Again, in the *Winter's Tale*:

"That lack'd sight only;——nought for *approbation*

"But only seeing." MALONE.

125. *——take heed how you impawn our person,]* The whole drift of the king is to impress upon the archbishop a due sense of the caution with which he is to speak. He tells him that the crime of unjust war, if the war be unjust, shall rest upon him.

"*Therefore take heed how you impawn your person.*" So, I think, it should be read, *Take heed how you pledge yourself, your honour, your happiness, in support of bad advice.*

Dr. Warburton explains *impawn* by *engage*, and so escapes the difficulty. JOHNSON.

The



The allusion here is to the game of chess, and the disposition of the *pawns* with respect to the *King*, at the commencement of this mimetick contest. HENLEY.

132. ———*brief* mortality.]

“Nulla *brevem* dominum sequetur.” Hor.

STEEVENS.

133. Under *this* conjuration,——] The quartos, 1600 and 1608, read,

“After *this* conjuration.”

STEEVENS.

139. ———*There is no bar, &c.*] This whole speech is copied (in a manner *verbatim*) from Hall’s *Chronicle*, Henry V. year the second, folio 4. xx. xxx. xl. &c. In the first edition it is very imperfect, and the whole history and names of the princes are confounded; but this was afterwards set right, and corrected from his original, Hall’s *Chronicle*. POPE.

142. This speech (together with the Latin passage in it) may as well be said to be taken from Holinshed as from Hall. STEEVENS.

144. ———*gloze*] Expound, explain, and sometimes comment upon. So, in *Troilus and Cressida*:

“———you have both said well;

“And on the cause and question now in hand

“Have *gloz’d* but superficially.” REED.

176. *To* fine his title, &c.] This is the reading of the quarto of 1608, that of the folio is, *To* find his title.

I believe that *find* is right; the jury *finds* for the plaintiff, or *finds* for the defendant: to *find* his title



is, to determine in favour of his title with some shew of truth. JOHNSON.

Both the quartos, 1600 and 1608, read—To *fine* his title, *i. e.* to make it *shewy* or *spacious* by some appearance of justice. STEEVENS.

178. ————*the lady Lingare,*  
Daughter to *Charlemain*, who was the son  
To Lewis the emperor, and Lewis the son  
Of *Charles the Great*.] But *Charlemain* and  
*Charles the Great* were one and the same person. *Char-*  
*lechauve* was indeed the son of Lewis the emperor;  
but who the lady *Lingare* was, hath not been disco-  
vered. Shakspeare, however, gives the information just  
as he found it in Hall and Holinshed. REMARKS.

181. ————*Also king Lewis the ninth*,] The word  
*ninth* has been inserted by some of the modern editors.  
The old copies read *tenth*. *Ninth* is certainly wrong,  
and *tenth* certainly right. Isabel was the wife of  
Philip the second, father of Lewis the *ninth*, and grand-  
father of Lewis the *tenth*. REMARKS.

198. ————*imbare their crooked titles*,] Mr. Pope  
reads: *Than* openly embrace; But where is the an-  
tithesis betwixt *hide* in the preceding line, and *imbrace*  
in this? The two old folios read, *Than amply to im-*  
*barre*.—We must certainly read, as Mr. Warburton  
advised me, *Than amply to imbare*—lay open, display  
to view. I am surpriz'd Mr. Pope did not start this  
conjecture, as Mr. Rowe had led the way to it in his  
edition; who reads:

*Than*



“*Than amply to make bare their crooked titles.*”

THEOBALD.

Mr. Theobald might have found, in the quarto of 1608, this reading:

“*Than amply to embrace their crooked causes;*”  
out of which line Mr. Pope formed his reading, erroneous indeed, but not merely capricious. JOHNSON.

The quarto 1600, reads—*imbace*

I know of no such word as *imbare*. To *unbar* is to open, which I suppose to be the word set down by the poet, and was probably opposed to *bar*. So, in the first scene of *Timon*, the poet says,

“I’ll *unbolt* to you.”

To *embar*, however, seems, from the following passage in the first book of Stanyhurst’s translation of *Virgil*, 1582, to signify to *break or cut off abruptly*:

“Heere Venus *embarring* his tale,” &c.

Yet, as to *bar*, in *Much Ado about Nothing*, is to strengthen,——

“——that is stronger made

“Which was before *barr’d* up with ribs of iron.”

So, *amply to unbar*, may mean to *weaken* by an open display of invalidity. STEEVENS.

*Imbare* is, I believe, the true reading, and means no more than to bare or lay upon. It is formed like *impaint*, *impawn*, and many other words used by Shakspeare. MALONE.

218. ——*cold for action!*] The next speeches of Ely, Exeter, Westmoreland, and Canterbury, were added after the quartos 1600 and 1608. STEEVENS.



244. *They of those marches,——]* The *marches* are the borders, the limits, the confines. Hence the *Lords Marchers*, *i. e.* the Lords Presidents of the *marches*, &c. So in the first canto of Drayton's *Baron's Wars*:

“When now the *marchers* well upon their way,” &c. STEEVENS.

249. *——giddy neighbour——]* *i. e.* inconstant, changeable. JOHNSON.

251. *Never went with his forces into France,]* The quartos 1600 and 1608, read,

“*——never my great grandfather*

“*Unmask'd his power for France——*”

What an opinion the Scots entertained of the defenceless state of England, may be known by the following passage from *The Battle of Flodden*, an ancient historical poem:

“For England's king you understand

“To France is past with all his peers;

“There is none at home left in the land,

“But joul't-headed monks, and bursten freers.

“Of ragged rustics, without rules,

“Of priests prating for pudding shives;

“Of milners madder than their mules,

“Or wanton clerks, waking their wives.”

STEEVENS.

258. *——at the ill neighbourhood.]* The quartos 1600 and 1608 read;

*——at the bruit thereof.*

STEEVENS.

259 *——fear'd——]* *i. e.* frightened. MALONE.

269.



269. ———and sumless treasuries.] The quartos 1600 and 1608 read,

“ ———and shipless treasury. STEEVENS.

271. *If that you will France win, &c.*] Hall's *Chronicle*. Henry V. year 2. fol. 7. p. 2. x. POPE.

It is likewise found in Hollinshed, and in the old anonymous play of *K. Henry V.* STEEVENS.

279. *Yet that is but a curs'd necessity;*] A *curs'd* necessity means only *an unfortunate necessity*. *Curs'd*, in colloquial phrase, signifies any thing *unfortunate*. So we say, such a one leads a *cursed* life; another has got into a *cursed* scrape. It may mean, a necessity *to be execrated*.

The vulgarism is often used by Sir Arthur Georges in his translation of Lucan, 1614. So, B. vii. p. 293.

“ His *curs'd* fortune he condemned.”

Again, p. 297:

“ ———on the cruel destinies

“ The people pour out *cursed* cries.”

Again, in Chapman's translation of the 5th *Odyssey*:

“ ———while thus discoursed he held,

“ A *curs'd* surge 'gainst a cutting rock impell'd

“ His naked body.” STEEVENS.

281. *And pretty traps——*] Thus the old copy; but I believe we should read *petty*. STEEVENS.

284. *For government, though high, and low, and lower,*] The foundation and expression of this thought seems to be borrowed from Cicero *de Republica*, lib. 2. *Sic ex summis & mediis & infimis inter-*  
*jectis*



*jectis ordinibus, ut sonis, moderatam ratione civitatem, consensu dissimiliorum concinere; & quæ harmonia à musicis dicitur in cantu, eam esse in civitate concordiam.*

THEOBALD.

285. ———in one consent;] Consent is unison.

STEEVENS.

290. *Setting endeavour in continual motion;*

*To which is fixed, as an aim or butt,*

*Obedience:—]* Neither the sense nor con-

struction of this passage is very obvious. The construction is, *endeavour, ———as an aim or butt to which endeavour, obedience is fixed.* The sense is, that all endeavour is to terminate in obedience, to be subordinate to the publick good and general design of government.

JOHNSON.

295. *They have a king and officers of sort:]* The quarto of 1600 reads, I think rightly, ———officers of sort; *i. e.* of rank or quality.

MALONE.

Officers of *sort* means officers of different degrees. In a London haberdasher's bill to his customer in the country, I lately saw the following charge, "To thread of sorts," *i. e.* of different kinds.

STEEVENS.

304. *The civil citizens kneading up the honey;]* The bees do in fact knead the wax more than the honey, but that Shakspeare perhaps did not know.

JOHNSON.

The old quartos read—lading up the honey.

STEEVENS.

308. *Delivering o'er to executors pale*

*The lazy yawning drone.—]* Executors is here used for executioners.

MALONE.



319. *Without* defeat.—] The quartos 1600 and 1608 read, *Without* defect. STEEVENS.

332. —*empery*,] This word, which signifies *dominion*, is now obsolete, though formerly in general use. So, in *Claudius Tiberius Nero*, 1607:

“Within the circuit of our *empery*.” STEEVENS.

339. —*with a waxen epitaph*.] The quarto 1608 reads, *with a paper epitaph*.

Either a *waxen* or a *paper* epitaph, is an epitaph easily obliterated or destroyed; one which can confer no lasting honour on the dead. Shakspeare employs the former epithet in a similar sense in *K. Richard II.*

“That it may enter Mowbray’s *waxen* coat.”  
Again in G. Whetstone’s *Garden of Unthriftiness*, 1576:

“In *waxe*, say I, men easily grave their will;

“In marble stone the worke with paine is  
wonne:

“But perfect once, the print remaineth still,

“When *waxen* seales by every browse are donne.”

STEEVENS.

The second reading is more unintelligible, to me at least, than the other: a grave not *dignified* with the slightest memorial. JOHNSON.

359. —*a nimble galliard won*;] A *galliard* was an ancient dance, now obsolete. So, in *All for Money*, 1574:

“Where shall we get a pipe to play the devil a  
*galliard*.” STEEVENS.

Mr.



Mr. Reed hath cited the following description of a *Galliard*, from Sir J. Davis's *Orchestra* :

“ But for more diverse and more pleasing show,  
“ A swift and wand’ring dance she did invent,  
“ With passages uncertain to and fro,  
“ Yet with uncertain answer and consent  
“ To the quick music of the instrument.  
“ Five was the number of the music’s feet,  
“ Which still the dance did with five paces  
meet,  
“ A gallant dance that lively doth bewray  
“ A spirit and a virtue masculine,  
“ Impatient that her house on earth should stay,  
“ Since she herself is fiery and divine :  
“ Oft doth she of her body upward fine;  
“ With lofty turns and caprioles in the air,  
“ Which with the lusty tunes accorded fair.”

366. *Tennis balls, my liege.*] In the old play of *Henry V.* already mentioned, this present consists of a *gilded tun of tennis-balls and a carpet.* STEEVENS.

367. *We are glad, the dauphin is so pleasant with us ;*] Thus stands the answer of K. Henry in the same old play :

“ Mylord, prince Dolphin is very pleasant with me.  
“ But tell him, that instead of balls of leather,  
“ We will toss him balls of brass and of iron ;  
“ Yea, such balls as never were toss’d in France.  
“ The proudest tennis-court in France shall  
rue it.”

And



And the following passage is in Michael Drayton's *Battle of Agincourt*:

“ I'll send him balls and rackets if I live,  
 “ That they such racket shall in Paris see,  
 “ When over line with bandies I shall drive ;  
 “ As that, before the set be fully done,  
 “ France may perhaps into the hazard run.”

STEEVENS.

374. *Chace* is a term at tennis. JOHNSON.

So is *the hazard*; a place in the tennis-court into which the ball is sometimes struck. STEEVENS.

378. *And therefore, living hence,—*]. *Living hence* means withdrawing from the court, the place in which he is now speaking. STEEVENS.

384. *For that I have laid by,—*]. To qualify myself for this undertaking, I have descended from my station, and studied the arts of life in a lower character. JOHNSON.

The quartos 1600 and 1608 read—*for* this.

STEEVENS.

390. *—his balls to gun-stones ;—*]. When ordnance was first used, they discharged balls, not of iron, but of stone. JOHNSON.

So, Hollinshed, p. 947. ‘ About seven of the clocke marched forward the light pieces of ordnance, with *stone* and powder.”

IN the BRUT of ENGLAND it is said that when Henry the fifth before Hareflete received a taunting message from the Dauphin of France, and a ton of  
 tennis-



tennis-balls by way of contempt, “ he anone lette  
 “ make tenes balles for the Dolfin (Henry’s ship) in  
 “ all the haste that they myght and they were great  
 “ GONNESTONES for the Dolfin to playe with alle.  
 “ But this game at tennis was too rough for the be-  
 “ sieged when Henry playede at the tenes with his  
 “ harde GONNESTONES,” &c. STEEVENS.

ACT II.

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*Line 1. NOW all the youth of England—*] I have replaced this chorus here, by the authority of the old folios; and ended the first act, as the poet certainly intended. Mr. Pope removed it, because, says he, “ This chorus manifestly is intended to advertise the spectators of the change of the scene to Southampton; and therefore ought to be placed just before that change, and not here.” It is true, the spectators are to be informed, that, when they next see the king, they are to suppose him at Southampton. But this does not imply any necessity of this chorus being contiguous to that change. On the contrary, the very including lines vouch absolutely against it:

“ *But till the king come forth, and not till then,*  
 “ *Unto Southampton do we shift our scene.*”

For



For how absurd is such a notice, if the scene is to change so soon as ever the chorus quits the stage? Besides, unless this chorus be prefixed to the scene betwixt *Nym*, *Bardolph*, &c. we shall draw the poet into another absurdity. *Pistol*, *Nym* and *Bardolph*, are in this scene talking of going to the wars of France; but the king had but just, at his quitting the stage, declared his resolution of commencing this war: and without the interval of an act, betwixt the scene and the comick characters entering, how could they with any probability be informed of this intended expedition?

THEOBALD.

I think Mr. Pope mistaken in transposing this chorus, and Mr. Theobald in concluding the act with it. The chorus evidently introduces that which follows, not comments on that which precedes, and therefore rather begins than ends the act, and so I have printed it. Dr. Warburton follows Mr. Pope. JOHNSON.

8. *For now sits Expectation in the air;*

*And hides a sword, from hilts unto the point,*

*With crowns imperial, &c.]* The imagery is wonderfully fine, and the thought exquisite, *Expectation sitting in the air* designs the height of their ambition; and the *sword hid from the hilt to the point with crowns and coronets*, that all sentiments of danger were lost in the thoughts of glory.

WARBURTON.

The idea is taken from the ancient representations of trophies in tapestry or painting. Among these it is very common to see swords encircled with naval or

C

mural



mural crowns. *Expectation* is likewise personified by Milton. *Par. Lost.* b. vi.

“———while *Expectation* stood

“In horror.”———

STEEVENS.

In the horse armoury in the Tower of London, Edward III. is represented with two crowns on his sword, alluding to the two kingdoms, France and England, of both which he was crowned heir. Perhaps the poet took the thought from this representation.

TOLLET.

26. ——*the gilt of France*——] *Gilt*, which in our author generally signifies *a display of gold* (as in this play,

“Our gayness and our *gilt* are all besmirch’d”) in the present instance means *golden money*. So, in *An Alarum for London*, 1602:

“To spend the victuals of our citizens,

“Which we can scarcely compass now with *gilt*.”

STEEVENS.

28. *And by their hands this grace of kings must die*

(*If hell and treason hold their promises,*)

*Ere he take ship for France, and in Southampton,*

*Linger your patience on; and well digest*

*The abuse of distance, while we force a play.*

*The sum is paid; the traitors are agreed;*

*The king is set from London; and the scene*

*Is now transported, gentles, to Southampton:*

*There is the play-house now.*——] I suppose

every one that reads these lines looks about for a meaning



meaning which he cannot find. There is no connection of sense nor regularity of transition from one thought to the other. It may be suspected that some lines are lost, and in that case the sense is irretrievable. I rather think, the meaning is obscured by an accidental transposition, which I would reform thus :

*And by their hands this grace of kings must die,  
If hell and treason hold their promises.  
The sum is paid, the traitors are agreed,  
The king is set from London, and the scene  
Is now transported, gentles, to Southampton,  
Ere he take ship for France. And in Southampton  
Linger your patience on, and well digest  
The abuse of distance, while we force a play.  
There is the play-house now——*

This alteration restores sense, and probably the true sense. The lines might be otherwise ranged, but this order pleases me best. JOHNSON.

23. ——*this grace of kings*——] Shakspeare might have found this phrase in Chapman's translation of the first book of *Homer*, 1598:

“——with her the *grace of kings*,  
“Wise Ithacus ascended——”

Again, in the 24th book :

“Idæus, guider of the mules, discern'd this *grace of men*.” STEEVENS.

31. ——*well digest*] The folio, in which only these choruses are found, reads, and perhaps rightly, ——*we'll digest*. STEEVENS.



32. ———*while we*———] These two words have been added by the modern editors, and (as it should seem) very properly. To *force a play*, is to produce a play by compelling many circumstance into a narrow compass. STEEVENS.

38. ———*charming the narrow seas*] Though Ben Jonson was indebted, as we are told, to the kindness of Shakspeare for the introduction of his first piece, *Every Man in his Humour*, on the stage, and though our author had performed a part in it, Jonson in the prologue to that play, as in many other places, has endeavoured to ridicule and depretiate him :

“ He rather prays you will be pleased to see

“ One such to-day as other plays should be,

“ *Where neither chorus wafts you o’er the seas,*” &c.

When this prologue was written is unknown. The envious author of it, however, did not publish it till 1616, the year of Shakspeare’s death. MALONE.

40. *We’ll not offend one stomach*———] *i. e.* you shall pass the sea without the qualms of sea sickness.

JOHNSON.

41. *But ’till the king come forth,*———] Here seems to be something omitted. Sir T. Hanmer reads :

“ *But when the king comes forth,*———

which, as the passage now stands, is necessary. These lines, obscure as they are, refute Mr. Pope’s conjectures on the true place of the chorus ; for they shew that something is to intervene before the scene changes to Southampton.

JOHNSON.

The



The *Canons of Criticism* read :

“ ———and but till then.”

And the *Revisal* approves the correction. STEEVENS.

43. Bard. *Well met, corporal.*] I have already shewn why in this edition the act begins with the chorus.

JOHNSON.

44. ———*lieutenant Bardolph.*] At this scene begins the connection of this play with the latter part of *K. Henry IV.* The characters would be indistinct, and the incidents unintelligible, without the knowledge of what passed in the two foregoing plays. JOHNSON.

48. ———*there shall be smiles ;*——] It is in vain to seek the precise meaning of every whimsical expression employed by this eccentric character. *Nym*, however, having expressed his indifference about the continuance of *Pistol's* friendship, might have added, *when time serves there shall be smiles, i. e.* he should be merry, even though he was to lose it ; or that his face would be ready with a smile as often as occasion should call one out into service, though *Pistol*, who had excited so many, was no longer near him. Dr. Farmer, however, with great probability would read——*smites*, *i. e.* *blows*, a word used in the midland counties.

STEEVENS.

53. ———*the humour of it.*] The folio reads,—and there's an end.

STEEVENS.

55. ———and we'll all be sworn brothers to France :] We should read, *we'll all go sworn brothers to France*, or, *we'll all be sworn brothers in France.* JOHNSON.



The humour of *sworn brothers* should be open'd a little. In the times of adventure, it was usual for two chiefs to bind themselves to share in each other's fortune, and divide their acquisitions between them. So, in the Conqueror's expedition, Robert de Oily, and Roger de Ivery, were *fratres jurati*; and Robert gave one of the honours he received to his *sworn brother* Roger. So these three scoundrels set out for France, as if they were going to make a conquest of the kingdom.

WHALLEY.

67. ———*patience be a tir'd mare*——] The folio reads, by corruption, *tired* name! from which Sir Thomas Hanmer, sagaciously enough, derived *tired* dame. Mr. Theobald retrieved from the quarto *tired* mare, the true reading.

JOHNSON.

———*though patience be a tir'd mare, yet she will plod.*] So, in *Pierce's Supererogation, or a New Praise of the Old Asse, &c.* "Silence is a slave in a chaine, and *patience* the common *packhorse* of the world."

STEEVENS.

73. *Base tyke*,——] *Tyke* is a small kind of dog.

STEEVENS.

85. ———*prick-ear'd cur*] "There were newly come "to the citie two young men that were Romans which "ranged up and downe the streetes *with their ears upright.*"——*Painters Palace of Pleasure.* This is said of two sharpers, and seems to explain the term *prick-ear'd*.

HENDERSON.

89. *Will you shog off?*——] This cant word is used in Beaumont and Fletcher's *Coxcomb*:

"Come,



“Come, prythee, let us *shog off*.”

Again, in *Pasquil and Katherine*, 1601 :

“——thus it *shogges*,” *i. e.* thus it goes.

STEEVENS.

93. ——in thy hateful *lungs*, yea, in thy *maw*, perdy.] Such was the coarse language in use among vulgar brawlers. So, in the *Life and Death of William Summers*, &c.

“——Thou lyest in thy *throat*, and in thy *guts*.”

STEEVENS.

94. ——*thy nasty mouth*!] The quartos read :

——*messful mouth*, STEEVENS.

98. *I am not Barbason ; you cannot conjure me.*] *Barbason* is the name of a *dæmon* mentioned in the *Merry Wives of Windsor*. STEEVENS.

105. ——*doating death is near* ;] The quarto has *groaning death*. JOHNSON.

106. *Therefore exhale*] *Exhale*, I believe, here signifies *draw*, or in Pistol's language, *lug out*.

The stage direction in the old copy, which ought to be preserved [they drawe], confirms this explanation.

MALONE.

*Therefore exhale*] means only—therefore *die* ; a threat common enough among dramatick heroes of a higher rank than Pistol, who only expresses this idea in the fantastick language peculiar to his character.

STEEVENS.

119. ——*the lazar kite* of Cressid's kind,] The same expression occurs in Green's *Card of Fancy*, 1601 :



1601: "What courtesy is to be found in such *kites of Cressides kind*?"

Again, in Gascoigne's *Dan Bartholomew of Bathe*, 1587:

"Nor seldom seene in *kites of Cressides kinde*." Shakspeare might design a ridicule on the last of these passages." STEEVENS.

122. —————*there's enough: go to.*]

The first folio reads,—*there's enough to go to.*

STEEVENS.

138. *Base is the slave that pays.*] Perhaps this expression was proverbial. I meet with it in *The fair Maid of the West*, by Heywood, 1631:

"My motto shall be, *Base is the man that pays.*"

STEEVENS.

180. *that was his bedfellow,*] So, Holinshed, "The said Lord Scroop was in such favour with the King, that he admitted him sometime to be his *bedfellow*." The familiar appellation of *bedfellow*, which appears strange to us, was common among the ancient nobility. There is a letter from the sixth Earl of Northumberland (still preserved in the collection of the present Duke) addressed "To his beloved cousyn Thomas Arundel, &c." which begins, "*Bedfellow*, after my most harteé recommendation:" So, in a comedy called *A Knack to know a Knave*, 1594:

"Yet, for thou wast once *bedfellow* to a king."

"And that I lov'd thee as my second self," &c. Again, in *Look about You*, 1600:

"—————if



“ —————if I not err

“ Thou art the prince’s ward.—

“ —————I am his ward, his chamberlain and  
bedfellow.” Again, in *Cynthia’s Revenge*, 1613:

“ Her I’ll bestow, and without prejudice,

“ On thee alone, my noble *bedfellow*.”

STEEVENS.

181. —cloy’d *and grac’d*—] Thus the quarto;  
the folio reads—*dull’d* and cloy’d. Perhaps *dull’d* is  
a mistake for *dol’d*. STEEVENS.

183. —to death and treachery!] Here the quartos  
insert a line omitted in all the following editions.

Exet. O! the Lord of Marsham! JOHNSON.

184. Now sits the wind fair—] The quarto of  
1600 reads—Now, Sirs, the wind is fair—  
which may be right. MALONE.

190. For which we have in head assembled them?]

Head, for an army formed. JOHNSON.

203. —hearts create—] Hearts compounded or  
*made up*, of duty and zeal. JOHNSON.

215. —more advice.—] On his return to more  
*coolness of mind*. JOHNSON.

225. —proceeding on distemper.] It has been just  
said by the King that, *it was excess of wine that set him*  
*on*, and *distemper* may therefore mean *intoxication*. *Dis-*  
*temper’d in liquor*, is still a common expression. Chap-  
man, in his *epicedium on the Death of Prince Henry*,  
1612, has personified this *distemper*:

“ Frantick *distemper*, and hare-ey’d unrest.”

And



And Brabantio says, that Roderigo is :

“ Full of supper and *distemp’ring* draughts.”

Again, Holinshed, Vol. III. p. 626, “—gave him wine and strong drink in such excessive sort, that he was therewith *distemper’d*, and reel’d as he went.”

STEEVENS.

226. —how shall we stretch our eye,—] If we may not *wink* at small faults, how wide must we open our eyes at great ?

JOHNSON.

251. —quick—] i. e. living.

JOHNSON.

275. —though the truth of it stand off as grass

As black from white,—] Though the truth be as apparent and visible as black and white contiguous to each other. To *stand off* is *être relevé*, to be prominent to the eye, as the strong parts of a picture.

JOHNSON.

277. Treason, and Murder,—] What follows to the end of this speech is additional since the first edition.

POPE.

279. Working so grossly,—] Grossly for palpably ; with a plain and visible connexion of cause and effect.

JOHNSON.

286. And other devils, that suggest, &c.] The reasoning, I think, requires that we should read—  
For other devils—

MALONE.

290. —he, that temper’d thee,—] Though *temper’d* may stand for *formed* or *moulded*, yet I fancy *tempted* was the author’s word, for it answers better to suggest in the opposition.

JOHNSON.

*Temper’d*



*Temper'd*, I believe, is the true reading. Falstaff says of Shallow, that he has him “*tempering* between his thumb and finger.” STEEVENS.

Dr. Johnson’s emendation is strongly supported, not only by the word *suggest*, which he has mentioned, but likewise by the foregoing and subsequent lines :

“ And whatsoever cunning *fiend* it was

“ That *wrought* upon the——

“ If that same *dæmon* that hath *gull’d* thee thus.”

MALONE.

Surely, the word *wrought*, if this citation contains any proof, agrees better with *tempered* than *tempted*.

HENLEY.

295. ——*vasty Tartar*——] i. e. *Tartarus*, the fabled place of future punishment. So, in Heywood’s *Brazen Age*, 1613 :

“ With Aconitum that in *Tartar* springs.”

STEEVENS.

298. *Oh, how hast thou with jealousy infected*

*The sweetness of affiance !——*] Shakspeare urges this aggravation of the guilt of treachery with great judgment. One of the worst consequences of breach of trust is the diminution of that confidence which makes the happiness of life, and the dissemination of suspicion, which is the poison of society. JOHNSON.

306. *Garnish’d and deck’d in modest complement.*]

*Complement* has in this instance the same sense as in *Love’s Labour’s Lost*, Act I. *Complements* in the age of Shakspeare,



Shakspeare, meant the same as *accomplishments* in the present one. STEEVENS.

307. *Not working with the eye without the ear.*]

The king means to say of Scroop, that he was a cautious man, who knew that *frontis nulla fides*, that a specious appearance was deceitful, and therefore did not *work with the eye without the ear*, did not trust the air or look of any man till he had tried him by enquiry and conversation. Surely this is the character of a prudent man. JOHNSON.

309. —and so *finely* boulded, *didst thou seem:*] *i. e.* refined or purged from all faults. POPE.

*Boulded* is the same with *sifted*, and has consequently the meaning of *refined*. JOHNSON.

327. *For me—the gold of France did not seduce;*] Holinshed, p. 549, observes from Hall, that “diverse write, that Richard earle of Cambridge did not conspire with the Lord Scroope, and Thomas Graie, for the murthering of King Henrie, to please the French king withall, but onlie to the intent to exalt to the crowne his brother-in-law Edmund, Earl of March, as heire to Lionell Duke of Clarence: after the death of which Earl of March, for diverse secret impediments not able to have issue, the Earl of Cambridge was sure that the crowne should come to him by his wife, and to his children of her begotten. And therefore (as was thought) he rather confessed himselfe for neede of monie to be corrupted by the French king, than he would declare his inward mind, &c.” STEEVENS.



337. *My fault,—*] One of the conspirators against Queen Elizabeth, I think Parry, concludes his letter to her with these words, “*discharge me; a culpâ, but not a pœnâ, good lady.*” This letter was much read at that time, and the author doubtless copied it.

— This whole scene was much enlarged and improved after the first edition; the particular insertions it would be tedious to mention, and tedious without any use.

JOHNSON.

349. — *Get you therefore hence,*] So, in Holinshed; “—Get ye hence therefore, ye poor miserable wretches, to the receiving of your just reward: wherein God’s majesty give you grace,” &c.

STEEVENS.

365. *No king of England, if not of France.*] So in the old play before that of Shakspeare:

“If not king of France, then of nothing must I be king.”

STEEVENS.

366. — *let me bring thee to Staines.*] *i. e.* let me attend thee.

375. — *finer end,*] for *final*.

JOHNSON.

377. — *turning o’ the tide*]— It has been a very old opinion, which Mead, *de imperio solis*, quotes, as if he believed it, that nobody dies but in the time of ebb: half the deaths in London confute the notion; but we find that it was common among the women of the poet’s time.

JOHNSON.

378. — *fumble with the sheets,—*] This passage is

D

burlesqued



burlesqued by Beaumont and Fletcher, in, *The Captain* :

“ 1. How does my master ?

“ 2. Faith, he lies drawing on apace,

“ 1. That’s an ill sign.

“ 2. And *fumbles* with the pots too.

“ 1. Then there’s *no way but one with him.*”

In the spurious play of *King John*, 1611, when Faulconbridge sees that prince at the point of death, he says :

“ O piercing sight ! he *fumbleth* in the mouth,

“ His speech doth fail.”——

And Pliny in his chapter on *The Signes of Death*, makes mention of “ a *fumbling* and pleiting of the bed-cloths.” See P. Holland’s *Translation*, chap. li.

STEEVENS.

There is this expression, and not, I believe, designed as a sneer on Shakspeare, in Beaumont and Fletcher’s *Spanish Curate*, Act IV. sc. 5.

“ A glimmering before death, ’tis nothing else  
Sir ;

“ Do you see how *he fumbles with the sheet* ?”

WHALLEY.

The same indication of approaching death is enumerated by Celsus Lommius, Hippocrates, and *Galen*. The testimony of the latter is sufficient to shew, that such a symptom is by no means imaginary.

“ Manus ante faciem attollere, muscas quasi venari  
inani



inani operâ, floccos carpere de vestibus, vel pariete. Et in seipso hoc expertus fuit *Galenus*. Quum enim," &c. Van Swieten *Comm.* t. ii. sect. 708. COLLINS.

380. *I knew there was but one way;*] I believe this phrase is proverbial. I meet with it again in, *If you know not me, you know Nobody*, 1613:

" I heard the doctors whisper it in secret

" *There is no way but one,*"

Again, in the *Life and death of Gomaliel Ratsey*, 1605:

" But now the courtier is in Huckster's handling, *there is no way with him but one*, for Ratsey seizes both on his money and books." STEEVENS.

—*for his nose was as sharp as a pen, and a table of green fields,*] These words, *and a table of green-fields*, are not to be found in the old editions of 1600, and 1608. This nonsense got into all the following editions by a pleasant mistake of the stage editors, who printed from the common piece-meal written parts in the play-house. A table was here directed to be brought in (it being a scene in a tavern where they drink at parting), and this direction crept into the text from the margin. Greenfield was the name of the property-man in that time, who furnished implements, &c. for the actors, *A table of Greenfield's*.

POPE.

So reasonable an account of this blunder, Mr. Theobald would not acquiesce in. He thought, *a table of Greenfield's* part of the text, only corrupted, and that it should be read, *he babbled of green fields*;



because men do so in the ravings of a calenture. But he did not consider how ill this agrees with the nature of the knight's illness, who was now in no *babbling* humour; and so far from wanting cooling in *green fields*, that his feet were cold, and he just expiring.

WARBURTON.

Upon this passage Mr. Theobald has a note that fills a page, which I omit in pity to my readers, since he only endeavours to prove, what I think every reader perceives to be true, that at this time no *table* could be wanted. Mr. Pope, in an appendix to his own edition in 12mo, seems to admit Theobald's emendation, which we would have allowed to be uncommonly happy, had we not been prejudiced against it by Mr. Pope's first note, with which, as it excites merriment, we are loath to part. JOHNSON.

Had the former editors been apprized, that *table*, in our author, signifies a pocket-book, I believe they would have retained it, with the following alteration; *for his nose was as sharp as a pen upon a table of green fells.*—On *table books*, silver or steel pens, very sharp pointed, were formerly, and are still fixed to the backs or covers. Mother Quickly compares Falstaff's nose (which in dying persons grows thin and sharp) to one of those *pens*, very properly, and she meant probably to have said, on a *table book* with a *shagreen cover*, or *shagreen table*; but in her usual blundering way, she calls it a *table of green fells*, or a table covered with *green-skin*, which the blundering transcriber turned  
into



into *green-fields*, and our editors have turned the prettiest blunder in Shakspeare quite out of doors.

SMITH.

Green *fells* and green *fields* might anciensly have had the same meaning. So, in the Countess of Pembroke's *Tragedie of Antonie*, 1595, 12mo.

“ As juice of Tyrian shell,

“ When clarified well,

“ To wolle of finest *fields*

“ A purple glosse it yields.”

STEEVENS.

Of these different attempts at emendation Theobald's is by far the best, as it comes nearest to the traces of the letters: but yet *babbling* seems to have been an unlikely employment for Falstaff, in so weak a condition. Robinson, in his translation of Sir T. More's *Utopia*, hath used the word *iabzl* for *one who talks incoherently, and at random*: hence I am induced to suspect that the true reading is *a iabled*. The similarity, in the writing of the time, between the letters *h* and *y* might easily have occasioned the mistake of one for the other, though they had been less similar in sound, and especially in the mouth of Dame Quickly. Dr. Johnson (though he hath erred in his explanation of the verb) hath given in his dictionary, to *javel* and to *jable*, as one.

HENLEY.

384. — *now I, to comfort him, bade him a should not think of God:]* Perhaps Shakspeare was indebted to the following story in *Wits, Fits and Fancies*, &c. 1595, for this very characteristick exhortation: “ A

D iij

gentlewoman.



gentlewoman fearing to be drowned, said, now Jesu receive our soules ! Soft, mistress, answered the waterman, *I trowe we are not come to that passe yet."*

MALONE.

390. ———*cold as any stone.*] Such is the end of Falstaff, from whom Shakspeare had promised us in his epilogue to *Henry IV.* that we should receive more entertainment. It happened to Shakspeare, as to other writers, to have his imagination crowded with a tumultuary confusion of images, which, while they were yet unsorted and unexamined, seemed sufficient to furnish a long train of incidents, and a new variety of merriment ; but which, when he was to produce them to view, shrunk suddenly from him, or could not be accommodated to his general design. That he once designed to have brought Falstaff on the scene again, we know from himself ; but whether he could contrive no train of adventures suitable to his character, or could match him with no companions likely to quicken his humour, or could open no new vein of pleasantry, and was afraid to continue the same strain, lest it should not find the same reception, he has here for ever discarded, and made haste to dispatch him, perhaps for the same reason for which Addison killed Sir Roger, that no other hand might attempt to exhibit him.

Let meaner authors learn from this example, that it is dangerous to sell the bear which is yet not hunted ; to promise to the public what they have not written.

This



This disappointment probably inclined Queen Elizabeth to command the poet to produce him once again, and to shew him in love or courtship. This was, indeed, a new source of humour, and produced a new play from the former characters. JOHNSON.

396. Mrs. Quickly blunders here, mistaking the word *incarnate* for a colour. In *Questions of Love* 1566, we have, “Yelowē, pale, redde, blue, whyte. graye, and *incarnate*.” HENDERSON.

413. *Let senses rule ;—*] This evidently means, *let prudence govern you*, conduct yourself sensibly ; and it agrees with what precedes and what follows.

STEEVENS.

—*Pitch and pay ;*] The caution was a very proper one to Mrs. Quickly, who had suffered before, by letting Falsaff run in her debt. The same expression occurs in *Blurt Master Constable* :

“ I will commit you, Signior, to my house ; but will you *pitch and pay*, or will your worship run——”  
So, again in *Herod and Antipater*, 1622 :

“ ——he that will purchase this,

“ Must *pitch and pay*.”

Again, in *The Mastive*, an ancient collection of epigrams :

“ ——Susan when she first bore sway,

“ Had for one night a French crown, *pitch and pay*.”

STEEVENS.

Old Tusser, in his description of Norwich, tells us it is

“ *A city trim——*

“ Where



“ Where strangers well, may seeme to dwell,

“ That *pitch and paie*, or keep their daye.”

*John Florio* says, “ *Pitch and paie*, and go your waie.”

One of the old laws of Blackwell-hall was, “ that a penny be paid by the owner of every bale of cloth for *pitching*,”

FARMER.

417. *Therefore, caveto be thy counsellor.*] The old quartos read :

*Therefore Cophetua be thy counsellor.* STEEVENS.

418. ———*clear thy crystals.*—] Dry thine eyes.

JOHNSON.

So, in *The Gentleman Usher*, by Chapman, 1602 :

“ ———an old wife’s eye

“ Is a blue *chrystal* full of sorcery.”

Again, in *A Match at Midnight*, 1633 :

“ ———ten thousand Cupids

“ Methought sat playing on that pair of *chrystals*.”

Again, in *The Double Marriage*, by Beaumont and Fletcher :

“ ———sleep, you sweet glasses,

“ An everlasting slumber close those *chrystals*.”

The old quartos 1600 and 1608, read :

*Clear up thy crystals.*

STEEVENS.

425. ———*keep close,*——] The quartos 1600, and 1608, read,

——keep fast thy *buggle boe*.

Which certainly is not nonsense, as the same expression is used by Shirley, in his *Gentleman of Venice* :

“ ———the courtisans of Venice,

“ Shall



“ Shall keep their *bugle bowes* for thee, dear uncle.”

Perhaps, indeed it is a Scotch term ; for in *Ane verie excellent and delectible Treatise intitult Philotus, &c.* printed at Edinburgh, 1603, I find it again :

“ What reck to tak the *bogill bo*,

“ My bonie burd, for anes.”

The reader may suppose *buggle boe* to be just what he pleases. STEEVENS.

The following lines in the *Devil's Charter*, a tragedy, by Barnaby Barnes, 1607, may perhaps assist the reader in his conjectures :

“ I conjure thee, foul fiend of Acheron,

“ By puissant Hobblecock, and Bristletoe,

“ By Windicaper, *Monti-boggle-bo*——.”

MALONE.

430. *And more than carefully it us concerns.*] *More than carefully*, is with *more than common care*; a phrase of the same kind with *better than well*. JOHNSON.

454. *Were busied*—] The quarto 1608 reads,—*were troubled*—— STEEVENS.

455. ——*so idly king'd*,] Shakspeare is not singular in his use of this verb *to king*. I find it in Warner's *Albion's England*, B. VIII. c. xlii.

“ ——and *king'd* his sister's son.” STEEVENS.

460. *You are too much mistaken in this king*.:] This part is much enlarged since the first writing. POPE.

464. *How modest in exception*,—] How diffident and decent in making objections. JOHNSON.

467. *Were but the outside of the Roman Brutus*.]

OUR



Our author's meaning is sufficiently explained by the following lines in *The Rape of Lucrece*, 1594:

“ Brutus, who pluck'd the knife from Lucrece's side,  
 “ Seeing such emulation in their woe,  
 “ Began to cloath his wit in state and pride,  
 “ Burying in Lucrece's wound his folly's show.  
 “ He with the Romans was esteemed so,  
 “ As silly jeering ideots are with kings,  
 “ For sportive words and uttering foolish things.  
 “ But now he throws that *shallow habit* by  
 “ Wherein deep policy did him disguise,  
 “ And arm'd his long-hid wits advisedly  
 “ To check the tears in Colatinus' eyes.”

MALONE.

476. *Which of a weak and niggardly projection,*] This passage, as it stands, is so perplexed, that I cannot help thinking it corrupt, if *which* be referred to *proportions of defence* (and I do not see to what else it can be referred), the construction will be—“ which *proportions of defence*, of a weak and niggardly projection, &c. *doth*, like a miser,” &c. I suspect the author wrote:

“ While oft, a weak and niggardly projection  
 “ Doth,” &c.

The reason then is clear.—In cases of defence, it is best to imagine the enemy more powerful than he seems to be; by this means, we make more full and ample preparations to defend ourselves: whereas, on the contrary, a poor and mean idea of the enemy's strength induces us to make but a scanty provision of forces  
 against



against him; wherein we act as a miser does, who spoils his coat by scanting a little cloth.

*Projection*, I believe, is here used for *fore-cast* or *preconception*. It may, however, mean *preparation*.

MALONE.

We might with less violence read:

“So the proportion of defence is fill’d.”

Which, however, according to Shakspeare’s licentious grammar, may refer only to the word *defence*, and not to *proportions of defence*.

STEEVENS.

482. —strain] lineage.

REED.

483. —That haunted us—] To *haunt* is a word of the utmost horror, which shews that they dreaded the English as goblins or spirits.

JOHNSON.

485. —Cressy battle fatally was struck,] So, in *Robert of Gloucester*:

“——and that fole of Somersete,——

“His come and *smyte a battell*.”

Again, in the title to one of Sir David Lyndsay’s poems, “How king Ninus began the first warres and *strake* the first *batayle*.”

STEEVENS.

488. While that his mountain sire, on mountain standing,] We should read, *mounting*, ambitious, aspiring.

WARBURTON.

Thus, in *Love’s Labour Lost*, act iv.

“Whoe’er he was, he shew’d a *mounting mind*.”

Dr. Warburton’s emendation may be right, and yet I believe the poet meant to give an idea of more than human proportion in the figure of the king:

“Quantus



“Quantus Athos, aut quantus Eryx,” &c. *Virg.*

“Like Teneriffe or Atlas unremov’d.” *Milton.*

Drayton, in the 18th song of his *Polyolbion*, has a similar thought:

“Then he, above them all, himself that sought  
to raise,

“Upon some *mountain* top, like a pyramides.”

Again, in Spenser’s *Faerie Queene*, B. I. c. xi.

“Where stretch’d he lay upon the sunny side

“Of a great hill, *himself like a great hill.*”

——*agmen agens, magnique ipse agminis instar.*

Mr. Tollet thinks this passage may be explained by another, in act i. sc. i.

“——his most *mighty* father on a *hill.*”

STEEVENS.

489. *Up in the air, crown’d with the golden sun,——]*

This idea might have been taken from Chaucer’s *Legende of good Women*:

“Her gilt here was *ycrowned with a son.*”

STEEVENS.

495. ——*fate of him,*] His *fate* is what is allotted

him by destiny, or what he is said to perform.

JOHNSON.

So Virgil, speaking of the future deeds of the descendants of Æneas:

“Attolens humeris famamque et *fata* nepotum.”

STEEVENS.

501. ——*spend their mouths,——]* i. e. *bark*, the sportsman’s term.

JOHNSON.



520. ———*memorable line,*] This genealogy; this deduction of his lineage. JOHNSON.

539. *The dead man's blood,*——] The disposition of the images were more regular if we were to read thus:

———*upon your head*

*Turning the dead man's blood, the widows' tears,*

*The orphans' cries, the pining maidens' groans.*

JOHNSON.

The quarto 1600 and 1608 exhibit the passage thus:

“ *And on your heads turns he the widows' tears,*

“ *The orphans' cries, the dead men's bones,*

“ *The pining maidens' groans,*

“ *For husbands, fathers, and distressed lovers,*

“ *Which,*” &c.

These quartos of 1600 and 1608 agree in all but the merest trifles; and therefore, for the future, I shall content myself in general to quote the former of them, which is the more correct of the two. STEEVENS.

558. *Shall chide your trespass,*——] To *chide* is to resound, to echo. So, in *The Midsummer Night's Dream*:

“ ——never did I hear

“ *Such gallant chiding.*”

So, in *Henry VIII.*

“ *As doth a rock against the chiding flood.*”

STEEVENS.

570. ——*he masters now;*——] Thus the folio. The quartos 1600 and 1608, read *musters*. STEEVENS.

571. ——*which you shall read*] The folio has

——*that you shall read.*



The quarto:

——— *which you shall find.*

MALONE.

ACT III.

Line 14. ——— *RIVAGE* ———] The *bank* or shore.

JOHNSON.

*Rivage*, French. So, in Spenser's *Faery Queene*, B. IV. c. i.

“ Paetolus with his waters shere

“ Throws forth upon the *rivage* round about him  
nere.”

Again, in Gower, *De Confessione Amantis*, lib. viii. fol.  
186.

“ Upon the stronde at *rivage*.” STEEVENS.

18. ——— *to sternage of this navy* ;] The stern be-  
ing the hinder part of the ship, the meaning is, let  
your minds follow close after the navy. STEEVENS.

33. ——— *linstock* ———] The staff to which the match  
is fixed when ordnance is fired. JOHNSON.

So, in Middleton's comedy of *Blurt Master Constable*,  
1602: ——— “ O Cupid, grant that my blushing prove  
not a *linstocke*, and give fire too suddenly,” &c.

Again, in the *Jew of Malta*, by Marlow, 1633:

“ Till you shall hear a culverin discharg'd

“ By him that bears the *linstock* kindled thus.”

STEEVENS.

35. *And eke out our performance with your mind.*] The  
first and second folio both read ——— *eech* out; and so,  
it



it appears, the word was anciently pronounced.

Thus, in *Pericles Prince of Tyre*, 1609:

“ And time that is so briefly spent

“ With your fine fancies quaintly *each*;

“ What’s dumb in shew I’ll plain with *speech*.”

MALONE.

37. *Or close the wall——*] Here is apparently a chasm. One line at least is lost, which contained the other part of a disjunctive proposition. The king’s speech is, *dear friends*, either win the town, *or close up the wall with dead*. The old quatto gives no help. JOHNSON.

This speech was added after the quartos 1600 and 1608. STEEVENS.

40. ——*when the blast of war blows in our ears,*

*Then imitate the action of the tyger;*] Sir Tho. Hanmer has observed on the following passage in *Troilus and Cressida*, that in storms and high winds the tyger roars and rages most furiously.

“ ————even so

“ Doth valour’s shew and valour’s worth divide

“ In storms of fortune: for, in her ray and  
brightness,

“ The herd hath more annoyance by the brize

“ Than by the *tyger*: but when splitting winds

“ Make flexible the knees of knotted oaks,

“ And flies flee under shade; why then the thing  
of courage,

“ As rouz’d with rage, with rage doth sympa-  
thize,” &c. STEEVENS.



45. ———portage of the head,——] *Portage*, open space, from *port*, a gate. Let the eye appear in the head as cannon through the battlements, or embrasures, of a fortification. JOHNSON.

48. ———his confounded base——] His *worn* or *wasted* base. JOHNSON.

51. ———bend up every spirit] A metaphor from the bow. JOHNSON.

53. *Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof!*] Thus the folio 1623, and rightly. So, Spenser's *Faery Queene*, B. III.

“Whom strange adventure did from Britain *fet*.” Again, in the Prologue to Ben Jonson's *Silent Woman*:

“Though there be none far-*fet*, there will dear bought.”

Again, in Lord Surrey's Translation of the second book of Virgil's *Æneid*:

“And with the winde had *fet* the land of Greece.” The sacred writings afford many instances to the same purpose. STEEVENS.

56. ———argument.] Is *matter*, or *subject*.

JOHNSON.

72. ———corporal,——] We should read *lieutenant*. It is Bardolph to whom he speaks. STEEVENS.

73. ———a case of lives:——] A set of lives, of which, when one is worn out, another may serve.

JOHNSON.

Perhaps only *two*; as a *case* of pistols; and, in Ben Jonson, a *case* of masques. WHALLEY.



84. *If wishes, &c.*] This passage I have replaced from the first folio, which is the only authentic copy of this play. These lines, which perhaps are part of a song, Mr. Pope did not like, and therefore changed them in conformity to the imperfect play in the quarto, and was followed by the succeeding editors. For *prevail*, I should read *avail*. JOHNSON.

87. *As duly, &c.*] This speech I have restored from the folio. STEEVENS.

89. *Enter Fluellen.*] The direction in the quarto is——“*Enter Fluellen, and beats them in.*” MALONE.

——*up t the preaches, &c.*] Thus the quarto, with only the difference of *breaches* instead of *preaches*. Modern editors have been very liberal of their Welch dialect. The folio reads, *Up to the breach you dogges, avaunt you cullions*. STEEVENS.

91. *Be merciful, great Duke, &c.*] *Duke*, means no more here than *commander*. So, in the language of our author and his contemporaries, *Duke Theseus*, *Duke Hannibal*, &c. MALONE.

91. ——*to men of mould!*] To men of *earth*, to poor mortal men. JOHNSON.

So in the *Countess of Pembroke's Ywychurch*, “at length *man was made of mold*, by crafty Prometheus.”

STEEVENS.

105. ——*best men;——*] i. e. *bravest*; so in the next lines, *good deeds* are *brave actions*. JOHNSON.

115. ——*the men would carry coals.——*] It appears that in Shakspeare's age, *to carry coals* was, I know



not why, to endure affronts. So, in *Romeo and Juliet*, one servingman asks another whether he will carry coals.

STEEVENS.

Cant phrases are the ephemerons of literature. In the quartos 1600 and 1608, the passage stands thus:

“I knew by that *they meant* to carry coales.”

STEEVENS.

131. —is digt himself four yards under the countermines:—] Fluellen means, that the enemy had digged himself *countermines* four yards under the *mines*.

JOHNSON.

132. —will plow up all,—] *i. e.* he will blow up all.

JOHNSON.

171. —I sall quit you,—] *i. e.* I shall, with your permission, *requite you*, *i. e.* answer you, or interpose with my arguments, as I shall find opportunity.

JOHNSON.

209. *there's an end.*] It were to be wished that the poor merriment of this dialogue had not been purchased with so much profaneness.

JOHNSON.

219. *The gates of mercy shall be all shut up;*] Mr. Gray has borrowed this thought in his *Elegy*:

“And shut the gates of mercy on mankind.”

STEEVENS.

We again meet this significant expression in *The Third Part of K. Henry VI.*

“Open thy gate of mercy, gracious Lord.”

MALONE.

226. —fell feats,

*Enlink'd to waste and desolation?*] All the savage



vage practices naturally concomitant to the sack of cities. JOHNSON.

238. *Whiles yet the cool and temperate wind of grace  
O'er-blows the filthy and contagious clouds]* To  
*over-blow* is to drive away, or to keep off. JOHNSON.

244. *Defile the locks, &c.]* The folio reads,  
*Desire the locks, &c.* STEEVENS.

267. — *we are addrest.]* i. e. prepared. STEEVENS.

267. Scene IV.] I have left this ridiculous scene as I found it: and am sorry to have no colour left, from any of the editions, to imagine it interpolated.

WARBURTON.

Sir Thomas Hanmer has rejected it. The scene is indeed mean enough, when it is read; but the grimaces of two French women, and the odd accent with which they uttered the English, made it divert upon the stage. It may be observed, that there is in it not only the French language, but the French spirit. Alice compliments the princess upon her knowledge of four words, and tells her that she pronounces like the English themselves. The princess suspects no deficiency in her instructress, nor the instructress in herself. Throughout the whole scene there may be found French servility, and French vanity.

I cannot forbear to transcribe the first sentence of this dialogue from the edition of 1608, that the reader, who has not looked into the old copies, may judge of the the strange negligence with which they are printed.

“ Kate.



“*Kate.* Alice venecia, vous aves cates on, vou perte fort bon Angloys Englatara, coman sae palla vou la main en Francoy.”

JOHNSON.

We may observe in general, that the early editions have not half the quantity; and every sentence, or rather every word, most ridiculously blundered. These, for several reasons, could not possibly be published by the author; and it is extremely probable, that the French ribaldry was at first inserted by a different hand, as the many additions most certainly were after he had left the stage.—Indeed, every friend to his memory will not easily believe, that he was acquainted with the scene between *Katherine* and the *old Gentlewoman*: or surely he would not have admitted such obscenity and nonsense.

FARMER.

It is very certain, that authors in the time of Shakspeare did not correct the press for themselves. I hardly ever saw in one of the old plays a sentence of either *Latin*, *Italian*, or *French*, without the most ridiculous blunders. In the *Hist. of Clyomon, Knight of the Golden Shield*, 1599, a tragedy which I have often quoted, a warrior asks a lady, disguised like a page, what her name is? She answers, “*Cur Dacere*,” i. e. *Cœur d’Acier*, Heart of Steel.

STEEVENS.

268. *Kat. Alice, tu as esté*——] I have regulated several speeches in this French scene; some whereof were given to *Alice*, and yet evidently belonged to *Katharine*: and so, *vice versa*. It is not material to distinguish the particular transpositions I have made.

Mr.



Mr. Gildon has left no bad remark, I think, with regard to our poet's conduct in the character of this princess: "For why he should not allow her," says he, "to speak in English as well as all the other French, I can't imagine; since it adds no beauty, but gives a patch'd and pye-bald dialogue of no beauty or force."

THEOBALD.

In the collection of *Chester Whitsun Mysteries*, among the *Harleian MSS.* No. 1013, I find French speeches introduced. In the *Vintner's Play*, p. 65, the three kings, who come to worship our infant Saviour, address themselves to Herod in that language, and Herod very politely answers them in the same. At first, I supposed the author to have appropriated a foreign tongue to them, because they were strangers; but in the *Skynner's Play*, p. 144, I found Pilate talking French, when no such reason could be offered to justify a change of language. These mysteries are said to have been written in 1328. It is hardly necessary to mention that in this MS. the French is as much corrupted as in the passage quoted by Dr. Johnson from the quarto edition of *K. Henry V.*

STEEVENS;

321. ———*de fingre*———] It is apparent by the correction of *Alice*, that the princess forgot *the nails*, and therefore it should be left out in her part.

JOHNSON.

330. ———*our father's luxury*,] In this place, as in others, *luxury* means *lust*.

JOHNSON.

331. ———*savage*———] Is here used in the French original



original sense, for *silvan uncultivated*, the same with *wild*. JOHNSON.

333. *And over-grow their grafters?*] For this reading there is no authority. The folio has—*over-look*. The quarto—*out-grow*. MALONE.

338. *In that nook-shotten isle of Albion.*] *Shotten*, signifies any thing projected: so *nook-shotten isle*, is an isle that shoots out into caps, promontories, and necks of land, the very figure of Great Britain.

WARBURTON.

342. ———*Can sodden water,*

*A drench for sur-reyn'd jades,*——] The exact meaning of *sur-reyn'd* I do not know. It is common to give horses, over-ridden or feverish, ground malt and hot water mixed, which is called a *mash*. To this he alludes. JOHNSON.

The word *sur-reyn'd* occurs more than once in the old plays. So, in *Jack Drum's Entertainment*, 1601:

“Writes he not a good cordial sappy stile?——

“A *sur-rein'd* jaded wit, but he rubs on.”

It should be observ'd that the quartos 1600 and 1608 read,

“———A drench for *swollen* jades. STEEVENS.

349. *Sweat drops of gallant youth*——] The quarto read,

“Sweat drops of *youthful blood*——— MALONE.

350. *Poor—we may call them*——] *May* was added in the second folio. MALONE.

357. ———*lavoltas high,*——] Hanmer observes, that



that in this dance there was much turning and much capering. Shakspeare mentions it more than once, but never so particularly as the author of *Muleasses the Turk*, a tragedy 1610 :

“ Be pleas’d, ye powers of night, and ’bout me skip  
 “ Your antick measures; like to coal-black moors  
 “ Dancing their high *lavoltoes* to the sun,  
 “ Circle me round : and in the midst I’ll stand,  
 “ And crack my sides with laughter at your  
 sports.”

Again, in Chapman’s *May-day*, 1606 :

“ ———let the Bourdeaux grape  
 “ Skip like *la volta’s* in their swelling veins.”

Again :

“ Where love doth dance *la volta’s*——”

STEEVENS.

*Lavoltas* are thus described by Sir John Davies, in his poem called *Orchestra*, as cited by Mr. Reed :

“ Yet is there one the most delightful kind,  
 “ A lofty jumping, or a leaping round,  
 “ Where arm in arm, two dancers are entwin’d  
 “ And whirl themselves with strict embrace-  
 ments bound,  
 “ And still their feet an *anapest* do sound,  
 “ An *anapest* is all their music’s song,  
 “ Whose first two feet is short, and third is  
 long.

“ As the victorious twins of Leda and Jove  
 “ That taught the Spartans dancing on the  
 sands.

“ Of



“ Of swift Eurotas, dance in heav’n above,  
 “ Knit and united with eternal hands,  
 “ Among the stars their double image stands,  
 “ Where both are carried with an equal pace,  
 “ Together jumping in their turning race.”

364. *Charles De-la-bret*,——] Milton somewhere bids the English take notice how their names are misspelt by foreigners, and seems to think that we may lawfully treat foreign names in return with the same neglect. This privilege seems to be exercised in this catalogue of French names, which, since the sense of the author is not affected, I have left as I found it.

JOHNSON.

I have changed the spelling; for I know not why we should leave blunders or antiquated orthography in the proper names, when we have been so careful to remove them both from all other parts of the text. Instead of *Charles De-la-bret*, we should read *Charles D’Albrat*; but the metre will not allow it. STEEVENS.

373. *With pennons*——] *Pennons* armorial were small flags, on which the arms, device and motto of a knight, were painted.

*Pennon* is the same as *pendant*. So, in *The Stately Moral of the Three Lords of London*, 1590:

“ In glitt’ring gold and particolour’d plumes,  
 “ With curious *pendants* on their launces fix’d,”  
 &c.

Again, in Chaucer’s *Knyghtes Tale*, v. 290, late edit.

“ And by his banner borne is his *penon*  
 “ Of gold ful riche, in which there was ybete

“ The



“The Minotaure which that he slew in Crete.”

In MS. *Harl.* No. 2413, is the following note:

*Penon.*

“A *penon* must bee two yardes and a half longe made round att the end, and conteyneth the armes of the owner, and serveth for the conduct of fiftie men.”

“Everye knight may have his *pennon* if hee bee cheefe captaine, and in it sett his armes: and if he bee made bannerett, the king or the lieftenant shall inake a slit in the end of the *pennon*, and the heralds shall rase it out.

*Pencelles.*

Pencells or flagges for horsemen must bee a yarde and a halfe longe, with crosses of St George,” &c.

STEEVENS.

374. ———*melted snow*] The poet has here defeated himself by passing too soon from one image to another. To bid the French rush upon the English as the torrents formed from melted snow stream from the Alps, was at once vehement and proper, but its force is destroyed by the grossness of the thought in the next line.

JOHNSON.

376. *The Alps doth spit and void his rheum upon:]*

“Jupiter hybernas canâ nive conspuit Alpes.”

Fur. Bibac. ap. Hor. STEEVENS.

418. *Of buxom valour,——]* i. e. valour under good command, obedient to its superiors. So, in Spenser's *Faery Queene*:

“Love tyrannizeth in the bitter smarts

“Of them that to him are *buxom* and prone.”

STEEVENS.



420. *That goddess blind,*

*That stands upon the rolling restless stone——]*

Fortune is described by Cebes, and by Pacuvius, in the fragments of Latin authors, p. 60. and in the 1st book of the pieces to Herennius, precisely in these words of our poet. It is unnecessary to quote them. S. W.

422. *Fortune is painted blind, with a muffler before her eyes, to signify to you that fortune is blind:——]* *Fortune the Goddess is represented blind, to shew that fortune or the chance of life, is without discernment.*

STEEVENS.

This picture of *Fortune* is taken from the old history of *Fortunatus*; where she is described to be a fair woman, *muffled over the eyes*

FARMER.

A *muffler* appears to have been part of a lady's dress. So, in *Mons. Thomas*, 1639:

“On with my *muffler*.”

STEEVENS.

433. The old editions,

*For he hath stol'n a pax,——]* “And this is

conformable to history,” says Mr. Pope, “a soldier (as Hall tells us) being hang'd at this time for such a fact.”——Both Hall and Holinshed agree as to the point of *theft*; but as to the thing *stolen*, there is not that conformity betwixt them and Mr. Pope. It was an ancient custom, at the celebration of mass, that when the priest pronounced these words, *Pax Domini sit semper nobiscum!* both clergy and people kissed one another. But that custom being abrogated, a certain image is now presented to be kissed, which is called a *Pax*. But it was not this image which *Bardolph* stole;



it was a *pix*, or little chest (from the Latin word, *pix*, a box); in which the consecrated *host* was used to be kept. “A foolish soldier,” says Hall expressly, and Holinshed after him, “stole a *pix* out of a church.”

THEOBALD.

What Theobald says is true, but might have been told in fewer words: I have examined the passage in Hall. Yet Dr. Warburton rejected that emendation, and continued Pope’s note without animadversion.

It is *pax* in the folio 1623; but altered to *pix* by Theobald and Sir Thomas Hanmer. They signified the same thing. See *Pax at Mass*, *Minshew’s Guide into the Tongues*. *Pix* or *pax* was a little box in which were kept the consecrated wafers.

JOHNSON.

So, in *May Day*, a comedy, by Chapman, 1611; “—Kiss the *pax*, and be quiet like your neighbours.” So, in *The Downfall of Robert Earl of Huntingdon*, 1601:

“Then with this hallow’d crucifix,

“This holy wafer, and this *pix*.”

That a *pix* and a *pax* were different things, may be seen from the following passage in the *History of our Blessed Lady of Loretto*, 12mo. 1608, p. 595.

“—a cup, and a sprinkle for holy water, a *pix* and a *pax*, all of excellent chrystal, gold and amber.”

Again, in *Stowe’s Chronicle*, p. 677: “—palmes, chalices, crosses, vestments, *pixes*, *paxes*, and such like.”

STEEVENS.

*Pix*, is apparently right. In Henry the VII’s will, it is said, “forasmoch as we have often and many  
“tymes to our inwarde regrete and displeasure seen at



“ our Jen, in diverse many churches of oure realme,  
 “ the holie sacrament of the aulter, kept in ful, simple,  
 “ and inhonest *pixes*, spicially *pixes* of copre and tym-  
 “ bre; we have appointed and commaunded the trea-  
 “ surer of our chambre, and maistre of our juell-  
 “ houss, to cause to be made furthwith, *pixes* of silver  
 “ and gilt, in a great nombre, for the keeping of the  
 “ holie sacrament of the aulter, after the faction of a  
 “ *pixe*, that we have caused to be delivered to them,  
 “ every of the said *pixes*, to be of the value of 1111*l*.  
 “ garnished with our armes, and rede roses and part-  
 “ colis crowned.” P. 33. REED.

445. *Why then rejoyce therefore.*] This passage, with  
 several others in the character of *Pistol*, is ridiculed  
 by Ben Jonson, in *The Poetaster*, as follows,

“ Why then lament therefore; damn’d be thy  
 guts

“ Unto king Pluto’s hell, and princely Erebus;

“ For sparrows must have food.” STEEVENS.

451. —Figo for thy friendship!] This expres-  
 sion occurs likewise in *Ram-Alley*, or *Merry Tricks*, 1610:

“ ———water at the dock,

“ A *fico* for her dock.”

Again:

“ A *fico* for the sun and moon.” STEEVENS.

453. *The fig of Spain!*] This is no allusion to the  
*fico* already explained in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*;  
 but to the custom of giving poison’d figs to those who  
 were the objects either of Spanish or Italian revenge.  
 The quartos 1600 and 1608 read,

“ The



“The *fig* of Spain *within thy jaw* :”

And afterwards :

“The *fig within thy bowels and thy dirty maw*.”

So, in *The Fleire*, 1610, a comedy,

“*Fel.* Give them a *fig*.”

“*Flo.* Make them drink their last.

“*Fel.* Poison them.”

Again, in *The Brothers*, by Shirley, 1652 :

“I must *poison* him; one *fig* sends him to Erebus.”

Again, in Ben Jonson's *Every Man in his Humour* :

“The lye to a man of my coat, is as ominous a  
*fruit as the fico*.”

Again, in one of Gascoign's *Poems* :

“It may fall out thou shalt be entic'd

“To sup sometimes with a magnifico,

“And have a *fico* foisted in thy dish,” &c.

Again, in Decker's *Match me in London*, 1631 :

“*Cor.* Now do I look for a *fig*.”

“*Gaz.* Chew none, fear nothing :”

and the scene of this play lies at Seville.

Again, in *The Noble Soldier*, 1634 :

“——Is it (poison) speeding?——

“As all our *Spanish figs* are.”

Again, in *Vittoria Corombona*, 1612 :

“I look now for a *Spanish fig*, or an Italian sallad  
daily.”

STEEVENS.

I believe the *Fig of Spain* is here used only as a term of contempt. In the old translation of *Galateo of Manners and behaviour*, p. 81, we have,



“ She gave the *Spanish figge*,

“ With both her thumbes at once.”

REED.

And in Fulwel's *Art of Flattery*,

“ And thus farewell I will returne

“ To lady hope agayne,

“ And for a token I thee sende,

“ A doting *Fig of Spayne*.”

HENLEY.

454. —Flu. *Very good*.] Instead of these two words, the quartos read:—

“ Captain Gower, cannot you hear it lighten and thunder?”

STEEVENS.

466. —a *sconce*,—] Appears to have been some hasty, rude, inconsiderable kind of fortification. Sir Thomas Smythe, in one of his *Discourses on the Art Military*, 1589, mentions them in the following manner: “—and that certain *sconces* by them devised, without anie bulwarks, flanckers, travasses, mounts, plat-formes, wet or drie ditches, in forme, with counter-scarps, or any other good forme of fortification, but only raised and formed with earth, turfe, trench, and certen poynts, angles, and indents, should be able to hold out the enemye,” &c.

STEEVENS.

So, Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*; “ I will *ensconce* (*i. e.* entrench) myself behind the arras.”

BLACKSTONE.

471. —a *horrid suit of the camp*,] Thus the folio. The 4tos 1600, &c. read—a horrid *shout* of the camp.

STEEVENS.

*Suit*, I have no doubt, is the true reading. *Suit*, in our author's time, appears to have been pronounced *shoot*.



shoot. [See a note on *Love's Labour Lost*.] Hence the quarto, which was, I believe, copied by the ear, has  
——shout. MALONE.

474. ——*such slanders of the age,—*] This was a character very troublesome to wise men in our author's time. “It is the practice with him,” says Ascham, “to be warlike, though he never looked enemy in the face, yet some warlike sign must be used, as a slovenly buskin, or an over-staring frowned head, as though out of every hair's top should suddenly start a good big oath.” JOHNSON.

480. ——*I must speak with him from the pridge.*] Fluellen, who comes from the bridge, wants to acquaint the king with the transactions that had happened there. This he calls *speaking to the king from the pridge*.

THEOBALD.

481. ——*Drums and colours. Enter the King, Gloucester, and Soldiers.*] The direction in the folio is——  
“Drums and colours. Enter the king and his poor soldiers.”

This was, I suppose, by way of introduction to the subsequent description in the chorus of Act IV. “The poor condemned English,” &c. MALONE.

494. ——*one that is like to be executed——*] The quarto has not these words; and I think they might well be omitted. For, from the latter part of Fluellen's speech, it should seem, that Bardolph was *already* executed: “*His nose is executed, and his fire's out.*”

MALONE.

497. ——*and wheelks, and knobs,—*] So, in Chaucer's character



character of a *Sompnour*, from which, perhaps, Shakspeare took some hints for his description of Bardolph's face :

“ A *Sompnour* was ther with us in that place

“ That hadde a *fire-red* cherubinnes face, &c.

“ —————

“ Ther n'as quicksilver, litarge, ne brimston,

“ Boras, ceruse, ne oile of tartre non,

“ Ne oinement that wolde clense or bite,

“ That might him helpen of his *whelkes* white,

“ Ne of the *knobbes* sitting on his chekes.”

See the prologue to the *Canterbury Tales*, late edit.  
v. 628, &c. STEEVENS.

500. ——— *his fire's out.*] This is the last time that any sport can be made with the red face of Bardolph, which, to confess the truth, seems to have taken more hold on Shakspeare's imagination than any other. The conception is very cold to the solitary reader, though it may be somewhat invigorated by the exhibition on the stage. This poet is always more careful about the present than the future, about his audience than his readers. JOHNSON.

508. ——— *Enter Montjoy.*] *Mont-joie* is the title of the first king at arms in France, as *Garter* is in our own country. STEEVENS.

————— *by my habit.*] That is, by his herald's coat. The person of a herald being inviolable, was distinguished in those times of formality by a peculiar dress, which is likewise yet worn on particular occasions. JOHNSON.



518. ———*upon our cue,*—] In our turn. This phrase the author learned among players, and has imparted it to kings. JOHNSON.

531. ———*so much my office.*] This speech, as well as another preceding it, was first compress'd into verse by Mr. Pope. Where he wanted a syllable, he supplied it, and where there were too many for his purpose, he made suitable omissions. Shakspeare (if we may believe some of the old copies) meant both speeches for prose, and as such I have printed them. STEEVENS.

538. ———*Without impeachment.*] *i. e.* hindrance. *Empechemens*, French. STEEVENS.

552. ———*God before,*——] This was an expression in that age for *God being my guide*; or, when used to another, *God by thy guide*. So, in an old dialogue between a herdsman and a maiden going on pilgrimage to Walsingham, the herdsman takes his leave in these words:

“*Now, go thy ways, and God before.*”

To *prevent* was used in the same sense. JOHNSON.

554. ———*There's for thy labour, Montjoy.*] It appears from many ancient books that it was always customary to reward a herald, whether he brought defiance or congratulation. So, in the ancient metrical history of the *Battle of Floddon*:

“Then gave he to the herald's hand,

“Besides, with it, *a rich reward*;

“Who hasten'd to his native land

“To see how with his king it far'd.”

STEEVENS.



569. —Scene VII.] This scene is shorter, and I think better, in the first editions of 1600 and 1608; but as the enlargements appear to be author's own, I would not omit them. POPE.

581. ———*He bounds from the earth, as if his entrails were hairs;——*] Alluding to the bounding of tennis-balls, which were stuffed with hair, as appears from *Much Ado about Nothing*, “And the old ornament of his cheek hath already stuff'd tennis-balls.”

WARBURTON.

589. ———*he is pure air and fire; and the dull elements of earth and water never appear in him,*] Thus Cleopatra, speaking of herself,

“I am air and fire; my other elements

“I give to baser life.”

STEEVENS.

592. ———*and all other jades you may call—beasts.*] It is plain that *jades* and *beasts* should change places, it being the first word and not the last, which is the term of reproach; as afterwards it is said,

*I had as live have my mistress a jade.*

WARBURTON.

There is no occasion for this change. In the Second Part of *King Henry IV.* scene i.

“—— he gave his *able horse* the head,

“And, bending forward, struck his armed heels

“Against the panting sides of the poor *jade*.”

*Jade* is sometimes used for a post horse. *Beast* is always employed as a contemptuous distinction. So, in *Macbeth*:

“—— what



“—— what *beast* was't then

“That made you break this enterprize to me :”

Again, in *Timon*: “—what a wicked *beast* was I to disfurnish myself against so good a time.”

STEEVENS.

609. ——*Wonder of nature*——] In the first part of *K. Henry VI.* act. V. sc. iv. Shakspeare himself uses the phrase which he here seems to ridicule :

“Be not offended, *nature's miracle* !”

MALONE.

The phrase is only reprehensible through its misapplication. It is surely proper when applied to a *woman*, but ridiculous indeed when addressed to a *horse*.

STEEVENS.

622. ——*like a kerne of Ireland, your French hose off, and in your strait trossers.*] This word very frequently occurs in the old dramattick writers. A man in *The Coxcomb* of Beaumont and Fletcher, speaking to an Irish servant, says, “I'll have thee flead, and *trossers* made of thy skin, to tumble in.” *Trossers* appear to have been tight breeches.—The kerns of Ireland anciently rode without breeches, and therefore *strait trossers*, I believe, means only in their naked skins, which sits close to them. The word is still preserved, but now written *trousers*.

STEEVENS.

“*Trowes*,” says the explanatory Index to Cox's *History of Ireland*, “are breeches and stockings made to fit as close to the body as can be.” Several of the morris-dancers, represented upon the print of my window, have such hose or strait trousers; but the poet seems



seems by the waggish context to have a further meaning. TOLLET.

In *Sir John Oldcastle*, the word is spelt *strouces*.

COLLINS.

The following stage direction in Ford's *Perkin Warbeck*, 1634, shews that the lower Irish were, in the time of our author, described and represented as wearing trowsers.—“Enter at one door four Scotch Anticks accordingly habited. Enter at another door, four wild *Irish* in *trowzes*, long-haired, and accordingly habited.” Yet our author may have intended an equiv-  
voque. MALONE.

654. ——— *Who will go to hazard with me for twenty English prisoners?*] So, in the old anonymous *Henry V.*

“Come and you see what me tro at the king's drummer and fife.”

“Faith me will tro at the earl of Northumberland; and, now I will tro at the king himsslf, &c.”

This incident, however, might have been furnished by the chronicle. STEEVENS.

680. ——— *his lacquey:*] He has beaten nobody yet but his footboy. JOHNSON.

————— *'tis a hooded valour; and, when it appears, it will bate.*] This is said with allusion to falcons which are kept *hooded* when they are not to fly at game, and, as soon as the hood is off, *bait* or flap the wing. The meaning is, the Dauphin's valour has never been let loose upon an enemy, yet, when he makes his first essay, we shall see how he will flutter. JOHNSON.



683. ——— *I will cap that proverb*—] Alluding to the practice of capping verses. JOHNSON.

688. ——— *with, — A pox of the devil!*] The quartos 1600 and 1608 read—*with, a jogge of the devil.*

STEEVENS.

699. ' *Would it were day!*—] Instead of this and the succeeding speeches, the quartos 1600 and 1608 conclude this scene with a couplet:

———— *Come, come away,  
The sun is high, and we wear out the day.*

STEEVENS.

717. ——— *give them great meals of beef,*—] So in *K. Edw. III.* 1599:

“ ——— but scant them of their *chines of beef,*  
“ And take away their downy featherbeds,” &c.

STEEVENS.

## ACT IV.

*Line 3. FILLS the wide vessel of the universe.*] *Universe* for *horizon*: for we are not to think Shakspeare so ignorant as to imagine it was night over the whole globe at once. He intimates he knew otherwise, by that fine line in the *Midsummer Night's Dream*:

———— *following darkness like a dream.*

Besides, the image he employs shews he meant but



half the globe; the horizon round, which has the shape of a vessel or goblet. WARBURTON.

There is a better proof, that Shakspeare knew the order of night and day, in *Macbeth*:

“ *Now o’er one half the world*

“ *Nature seems dead.*”

But there was no great need of any justification. The *universe*, in its original sense, no more means this globe singly than the circuit of the horizon; but, however large in its philosophical sense, it may be poetically used for as much of the world as falls under observation. Let me remark further, that ignorance cannot be certainly inferred from inaccuracy. Knowledge is not always present. JOHNSON.

*The wide vessel of the universe* is derived, I apprehend, from a different source than that which Dr. Warburton supposes. Shakspeare in another play stiles *night the blanket of the dark*: it is probable, that the affinity between *blanket* and *sheet* suggested to him the further relation between *sheet* and *vessel*, which occurs in the *Acts*, c. x. v. 11.—“ And saw heaven opened, and a certain *vessel* descending unto him, as if it had been a *graet SHEET*, *knit at the four corners, and let down unto the earth.*” HENLEY.

9. —[*the other’s umber’d face.*] Of this epithet used by Shakspeare in his description of fires reflected by night, Mr. Pope knew the value, and has transplanted it into the *Iliad* on a like occasion:

“ Whose



“ Whose *umber'd* arms by turns thick flashes send.”

*Umbre* is a brown colour. So, in *As You like It*:

“ And with a kind of *umbre* smirch my face.”

The distant visages of the soldiers would certainly appear of this hue when beheld through the light of midnight fires. STEEVENS.

Another interpretation occurs, expressive of the preparation of both armies for an engagement. In *Hamlet*, act III. Mr. Steevens gives the following quotation from *Stowe's Chronicle*, “ He brast up his *umber* three times.” Where *umber* means the vizor of the helmet, as *umbriere* doth in *Spenser*, from the French *ombre*, *ombriere*, or *umbraire*, a shadow, an umbrella, or any thing that hides or covers the face. Hence *umber'd face* may denote a face armed with a helmet, as in *K. Henry IV*:

“ I saw young Harry with his beaver on.”

and in the present play:

“ Big Mars seems bankrupt in their beggar'd host,

“ And faintly through a rusty beaver peeps.”

*Beaver* here means exactly the same with *umber* in *Stowe*. TOLLET.

11. ———and from the tents,] See the preparation for the battle between Palamon and Arcite in *Chaucer*:

“ And on the morwe, when the day 'gan spring,

“ Of horse and harnesses noise and clattering,

“ There was in the hosteliries all about:

“ The foamy stedes on the golden bridel



“ Gnawing, and *fast the armurers also*

“ *With file and hammer priking to and fro.*”

WARTON.

19. *Do the low-rated English play at dice;*] *i. e.* do play them away at dice. WARBURTON.

26. Investing *lank-lean cheeks*,——] *A gesture investing cheeks and coats* is nonsense. We should read:

Invest in *lank-lean cheeks*———

which is sense, *i. e.* their sad gesture was cloath'd, or set off, in lean cheeks and worn coats. The image is strong and picturesque. WARBURTON.

Yet perhaps even this change is unnecessary. The harshness of the metaphor is what offends, which means only, that their looks are invested in mournful gestures.

Such another harsh metaphor occurs in *Much Ado about Nothing*:

“ For my part, I am so *attir'd* in wonder,

“ I know not what to say.”

STEEVENS.

*Gesture* only relates to their *cheeks*, after which word there should be a comma, as in the first folio. In the second song of Sidney's *Astrophel and Stella*:

“ Anger *invests* the face with a lovely grace.”

TOLLET.

The present time runs throughout the whole of the description, except in this instance, where the change seems very improper. I believe we should read with Hanmer, *presenteth*. STEEVENS.

*Investing*, perhaps we should read, *in fasting, &c.*

ANON.

I have



I have no doubt that *presenteth*, which Mr. Steevens proposes, is the true reading.

If *in fasting*, which is a most probable conjecture, be admitted, the whole is clear.—Each of these mistakes might easily have happened from a hasty pronunciation, or inattention in the transcriber.

MALONE.

53. Minding *true things*——] To *mind* is the same as *to call to remembrance*. JOHNSON.

63. *That we should dress us fairly for our end.*] So, in *K. Henry IV. P. I.*

“They come like sacrifices *in their trim.*”

STEEVENS.

66. ——*old Sir Thomas Erpingham* :] Sir Thomas Erpingham came over with Bolingbroke from Bretagne, and was one of the commissioners to receive king Richard’s abdication. EDWARDS, MS.

Sir Thomas Erpingham was in Henry V’s time warden of Dover castle. His arms are still visible on one side of the Roman pharos. STEEVENS.

76. *With casted slough*——] *Slough* is the skin which the serpent annually throws off, and by the change of which he is supposed to regain new vigour and fresh youth. *Legerity* is lightness, nimbleness. JOHNSON.

So, in Stanyhurst’s translation of *Virgil*, B. IV. 1582 :

“His *slough* uncasing himself now youthfully bleacheth.”

*Legerity* is a word used by Ben Jonson in *Every Man out of his Humour*. STEEVENS.



99. ———*an imp of fame:*] An *imp* is a *shoot* in its primitive sense, but means a *son* in Shakspeare. In Holinshed, p. 951, the last words of lord Cromwell are preserved, who says, “—and after him that his sonne prince Edward, that godlie *impe*, may long reigne over you.” STEEVENS.

117. *It sorts*——] *i. e.* it agrees. So, in Chapman’s version of the 17th book of the *Odyssey*:

“His faire long lance well *sorting* with his hand.”

STEEVENS.

125. ———*I warrant you, &c.*] So, in the laws and ordinances militarie set down by Robert earl of Leicester in the Low Countries printed at Leyden, 1586, one is, that “No man shall make anie outcrie or  
“noise in any watch ward, ambush, or anie other  
“place *where silence is requisite* and necessarie upon  
“paine of losse of life or lim at the generals discre-  
“tion.” REED

158. ———*conditions;*—] Are *qualities*. The meaning is, that objects are represented by his senses to him, as to other men by theirs. What is danger to another is danger likewise to him; and, when he feels *fear*, it is like the fear of meaner mortals.

JOHNSON.

195. *Their children rawly left.*] That is, *without preparation, hastily, suddenly*. What is not *matured* is *raw*. So, in *Macbeth*:

“Wh<sup>h</sup> in this *rawness* left he wife and children?”

JOHNSON.

*Rawly*



*Rawly left, is left young and helpless.* REMARKS.

222. ———*native punishment,*] That is, punishment in their native country. REVISAL.

That is such as they are born to if they offend.

STEEVENS.

232. ———*Every subject's duty*—] This is a very just distinction, and the whole argument is well followed, and properly concluded. JOHNSON.

254. ———*that's a perilous shot out of an elder gun,*—] In the old play the thought is more opened. *It is a great displeasure that an elder gun can do against a cannon.* JOHNSON.

284. ———*twenty French crowns*——] This conceit, rather too low for a king, has been already explained, as alluding to the venereal disease. JOHNSON.

There is surely no necessity for supposing any allusion in this passage to the venereal disease. The conceit here seems to turn merely upon the equivocal sense of *crown*, which signifies either *a coin*, or *a head*.

TYRWHITT.

289. *Upon the king! &c.*] This beautiful speech was added after the first edition. POPE.

There is something very striking and solemn in this soliloquy, into which the king breaks immediately as soon as he is left alone. Something like this, on less occasions, every breast has felt. Reflection and seriousness rush upon the mind upon the separation of a gay company, and especially after forced and unwilling merriment. JOHNSON.



322. —farsed *title running*, &c.] *Farsed* is *stuffed*. The tumid puffy titles with which a king's name is always introduced. This I think is the sense.

JOHNSON.

So, in *All for Money*, by T. Lupton, 1574:

“ ———belly-gods so swarm,

“ *Farced*, and flowing with all kind of gall.”

Again:

“ And like a greedy cormorant with belly full  
*farced*.”

Again, in *Jacob and Esau*, 1568:

“ To make both broth and *farcing*, and that full  
deinty.”

Again, in Stanyhurst's version of the first book of *Virgil*:

“ Or eels are *farcing* with dulce and delicat  
hoonny.”

Again, in *Every Man out of his Humour*:

“ ———*farce* thy lean ribs with it too.”

STEEVENS.

327. *Can sleep so soundly*, &c.] These lines are exquisitely pleasing. *To sweat in the eye of Phæbus*, and *to sleep in Elysium*, are expressions very poetical.

JOHNSON.

351. In former editions:

———*take from them now*

*The sense of reck'ning of th' opposed numbers:*

*Pluck their hearts from them!———]* Thus the first folio. The poet might intend, “ Take from them the sense of reckoning those opposed numbers; *which* might pluck their courage from them.” But the *relative*



*lative* not being express'd, the sense is very obscure.

THEOBALD.

Theobald's alteration certainly makes a very good sense; but, I think, we might read, with less deviation from the present text:

——if *th'* *opposed numbers*

*Pluck their hearts from them.*

In conjectural criticism, as in mechanics, the perfection of the art, I apprehend, consists in producing a given effect with the least possible force.

TYRWHITT.

The old reading appears to be right. The king prays that his men may be unable to reckon the enemy's force, that their hearts [*i. e.* their sense and passions) may be taken from them: that they may be as brave as a total absence of all feeling and recollection can make them. An explanation which seems to be countenanced by the old quarto. A learned friend inclines to think that by—their *hearts*, the king means the hearts of the *opposed numbers*.

REMARKS.

365. *Since that my penitence comes after all,*

*Imploring pardon.] I do all this, says the king, though all that I can do is nothing worth, is so far from an adequate expiation of the crime, that penitence comes after all, imploring pardon both for the crime and the expiation.*

JOHNSON.

374. *Via!—les eaux & la terre.——]* *Via* is an old hortatory exclamation, as *allons!*

JOHNSON.

So, in *K. Edward III.* 1599:

“Then *Via!* for the spacious bounds of France.”

Again,



Again, in the *Fawne*, by John Marston, 1606:

“Come *Via*! to this feastful entertainment!”

Again, in Marston's *What you Will*, 1607:

“Tut, *Via*! let all run glib and square!”

STEEVENS.

382. *And daunt them——*] The first folio reads *doubt*, which, perhaps, may have been used for *to make to doubt*; *to terrify*. TYRWHITT.

406. *The tucket-sonuance, &c.*] The *tucket-sonuance* was, I believe, the name of an introductory flourish on the trumpet, as *tocatta* in Italian is the prelude of a sonata on the harpsichord, and *toccar la tromba* is to blow the trumpet.

In the Spanish tragedy (no date) “a *tucket* afar off.” Again, in the *Devil's Lawcase*, 1623:

“2 *tuckets* by several trumpets.”

*Sonance* is a word used by Haywood, in his *Rape of Lucrece*, 1630:

“Or if he chance to endure our tongues so much

“As but to hear their *sonance*.” STEEVENS.

416. *Their horsemen sit like fixed candlesticks, With torch-staves in their hand;*] Grandpré alludes to the form of the ancient candlesticks, which frequently represented human figures holding the sockets for the lights in their extended hands.

A similar image occurs in *Vittoria Corombona*, 1612: “—he shew'd like a pewter *candlestick*, fashioned like a man in armour, holding a tilting staff in his hand little bigger than a candle.” STEEVENS.

420. —gimmal *bit*——] *Gimmal* is, in the western

a i s a

i e s i e s i e

a i s a i s a i s



tern counties, a *ring*; a *gimmel bit* is therefore a *bit* of which the parts play'd one within another.

JOHNSON.

I meet with the word, though differently spelt, in the old play of *The Reign of King Edward the Third*, 1596:

“ Nor lay aside their jacks of *gymold* mail.”

*Gymold* or *gimmel'd* mail, means armour composed of links like those of a chain, which by its flexibility fitted itself to the shape of the body more exactly than defensive covering of any other contrivance. There was a suit of it to be seen in the Tower. Spenser, in his *Faerie Queene*, B. I. cap. v. calls it *woven mail*:

“ In *woven* mail all armed warily.”

In *Lingua*, &c. 1607, is mentioned:

“ ———a *gimmel* ring with one link hanging.”

STEEVENS.

422. ———*their executors, the knavish crows,*—] The crows who are to have the disposal of what they shall leave, their hides and their flesh. JOHNSON.

431. *I stay but for my guard;*—] It seems, by what follows, that *guard*, in this place, means rather something of ornament or of distinction than a body of attendants. JOHNSON.

The following quotation from Holinshed, p. 554, will best elucidate this passage———“ The duke of Brabant, when his standard was not come, caused a *banner* to be taken from a *trumpet* and fastened upon a spear, the which he commanded to be borne before him instead of a standard.”

In



In the second part of Heywood's *Iron Age*, 1632, Menelaus, after having enumerated to Pyrrhus the treasures of his father Achilles, as his myrmidons, &c. adds :

“ His sword, spurs, armours, *guard*, pavilion.”

From this passage it should appear that the *guard* was part of the defensive armour ; perhaps what we call at present the *gorget*.

Again, in Holinshed, p. 820.

“ The one bare his helmet, the second his *gran-guard*,” &c. STEEVENS.

Perhaps, instead of,

I stay but for my *guard* ; *on*, to the field :

We should read :

I stay but for my *guidon* ;—to the field !

This conjecture is proposed with the more confidence, as I have been informed that it occurred also to the late Mr. Carter of Tunstal. In support of it may be added, what immediately follows :—

“ I will *the banner* from a trumpet take,

“ And use it for my haste.—”

And also, that :—*To the field!* is the word for marching used by Hotspur.—

Since the foregoing note was written, I find the word of command as given by Hotspur in his sleep, is preceded by an adhortation corresponding to *On* :—

“ Courage, *to the field!*” which leads me to suppose that *guard* may be synonymous with *guidon*. It is evident that it bears this sense in the passage before us,  
and



and is so explained by the word *standard* in Holinshed, as cited by Mr. Steevens. HENLEY.

445. In the old edition :

Bed. *Farewel, good Salisbury ; and good luck go with thee :*

*And yet I do thee wrong, to mind thee of it,  
For thou art fram'd of the firm truth of valour.*

Exe. *Farewel, kind lord ; fight valiantly to-day.*

What ! does he do Salisbury wrong to wish him good luck ? The ingenious Dr. Thirlby prescribed to me the transposition of the verses, which I have made in the text : and the old quartos plainly lead to such a regulation. THEOBALD.

I believe Mr. Theobald's transposition to be perfectly right, for it was already made in the quartos 1600 and 1608, as follows :

*Farewel, kind lord ; fight valiantly to-day,  
And yet in truth I do thee wrong,  
For thou art made on the true sparkes of honour.*

STEEVENS.

455. *My cousin Westmoreland ?——*] In the quartos 1600 and 1608, this speech is addressed to Warwick.

STEEVENS.

460. *By Jove,——*] The king prays like a christian, and swears like a heathen. JOHNSON.

476. *——of Crispian :*] The battle of Agincourt was fought upon the 25th of October, St. Crispin's day : the legend upon which this is founded, follows :  
“ Crispinus and Crispianus were brethren, born at Rome ; from whence they travelled to Soissons in

H

France



France, about the year 303, to propogate the christian religion ; but because they would not be chargeable to others for their maintenance, they exercised the trade of shoemakers ; but the governor of the town discovering them to be christians, ordered them to be beheaded about the year 303. From which time the shoemakers made choice of them for their tutelar saints." *Wheatley's Rational Illustration*, folio edit. p. 76. See Hall's *Chronicle*, fol. 47. GREY.

485. ———*with advantages*,] Old men, notwithstanding the natural forgetfulness of age, shall remember *their feats of this day*, and remember to tell them *with advantage*. Age is commonly boastful, and inclined to magnify past acts and past times. JOHNSON.

493. *From this day to the ending*——] It may be observed that we are apt to promise to ourselves a more lasting memory than the changing state of human things admits. This prediction is not verified ; the feast of Crispin passes by without any mention of Agincourt. Late events obliterate the former : the civil wars have left in this nation scarcely any tradition of more ancient history. JOHNSON.

498. ———*gentle his condition*.:] This day shall advance him to the rank of a gentleman. JOHNSON.

King Henry V. inhibited any person but such as had a right by inheritance, or grant, to assume coats of arms, except those who fought with him at the battle of Agincourt ; and, I think, these last were allowed the chief seats of honour at all feasts and public meetings. TOLLET.



502. ———*upon St. Crispin's day.*] This speech, like many others of the declamatory kind, is too long. Had it been contracted to about half the number of lines, it might have gained force, and lost none of the sentiments.

JOHNSON.

504. ———*bravely*———] Is *splendidly, ostentatiously.*

JOHNSON.

505. ———*expedience*———] *i. e.* expedition.

STEEVENS.

508. ———*thou hast unwish'd five thousand men,*———] By wishing only thyself and me, thou hast wished five thousand men away. Shakspeare never thinks of such trifles as numbers. In the last scene the French are said to be *full threescore thousand*, which Exeter declares to be *five to one*; but, by the king's account, they are twelve to one.

JOHNSON.

Holinshed makes the English army consist of 15,000, and the French of 60,000 horse, besides foot, &c. in all 100,000; while Walsingham and Harding represent the English as but 9000; and other authors say that the number of French amounted to 150,000.

STEEVENS.

531. *A many*———] Thus the folio; the quarto———  
*and many*———

STEEVENS.

540. *Mark then abounding valour in our English;*] Thus the old folios. The quartos, more erroneously still:

*Mark then abundant*———

Mr. Pope degraded the passage in both his editions, because, I presume, he did not understand it. I have



reformed the text, and the allusion is exceedingly beautiful; comparing the revival of the English valour to the rebounding of a cannon-ball.

THEOBALD:

543. *Killing in relapse of mortality.*] What is it to *kill in relapse of mortality*? I do not know. I suspect that it should be read:

*Killing in reliques of mortality.*

That is, continuing to *kill* when they are the *reliques* that *death* has left behind it.

That the allusion is, as Mr. Theobald thinks, *exceedingly beautiful*, I am afraid few readers will discover. The *valour* of a putrid body, that destroys by the stench, is one of the thoughts that do no great honour to the poet. Perhaps from this putrid valour Dryden might borrow the posthumous empire of Don Sebastian, who was to reign wheresoever his atoms should be scattered. JOHNSON.

By this phrase, however uncouth, Shakspeare seems to mean the same as in the preceding line. *Mortality* is death. So, in *K. Henry VI. Part I.*

“———I beg *mortality*

“Rather than life.———”

*Relapse* may be used for *rebonnd*. Shakspeare has given *mind of honour*, for *honourable mind*; and by the same rule might write *relapse of mortality* for *fatal* or *mortal rebound*; or by *relapse of mortality*, he may mean—after they had *relapsed into inanimation*. STEEVENS.

This *putrid valour* is common to the descriptions of other poets as well as Shakspeare and Dryden, and is predicated



predicated to be no less victorious by Lucan, lib. vii. v. 821.

“ Quid fugis hanc cladem, quid olentes deseris agros ?

“ Has trahe Cæsar, aquas ; hoc, si potes utere cælo.

“ Sed tibi tabentes populi Pharsalica rura

“ Eripiunt, camposque tenent victore fugato.”

Corneille has imitated this passage in the first speech in his *Pompée*

“ ———de chars,

“ Sur ses champs empestés confusément épars,

“ Ces montagnes de morts privés d’honneurs suprêmes,

“ Que la nature force à se venger eux-mêmes,

“ Et de leurs troncs pourris exhale dans les vents

“ De quoi faire la guerre au reste des vivans.”

Voltaire, in his letter to the academy of Belles Lettres at Paris, opposes the preceding part of this speech to a quotation from Shakspeare. The Frenchman, however, very prudently stopped before he came to the lines which are here quoted. STEEVENS.

545. ———*warriors for the working day:*] We are soldiers but coarsely dressed ; we have not on our holiday apparel. JOHNSON.

546. ———*our gilt*———] *i. e.* Golden show, superficial gilding. Obsolete. So, in *Timon* :

“ When thou wast in thy *gilt*, and thy perfume,”  
&c.

Again, in another of our author’s plays :



“ The double *gilt* of this opportunity you let time wash off.”

Again, in *Arden of Feversham*, 1592:

“ And now the rain hath beaten off thy *gilt*.”

STEEVENS.

573. ———*discuss*.] This affected word is used by Lylly in his *Woman in the Moon*, 1597:

But first I must *discuss* this heavenly cloud.”

STEEVENS.

575. ———*signieur Dew* should be a *gentleman*.] I cannot help thinking, that Shakspeare intended here a stroke at a passage in a famous old book, call'd, *The Gentleman's Academie in Hawking, Hunting, and Armoric*, written originally by Juliana Barnes, and re-published by Gervase Markham, 1595. The first chapter of the *Booke of Armorie*, is, the difference 'twixt *Churles* and *Gentlemen*;" and it ends thus: "From the of-spring of *gentlemanly Japhet* came *Abraham*, *Moyeses*, *Aaron*, and the Prophets; and also the king of the right line of *Mary*, of whom that *only absolute gentleman*, *Jesus*, was borne :—*gentleman*, by his mother *Mary*, *princesse of coat armor*." FARMER.

577. ———*thou dy'st on point of fox*,] *Fox* is no more than an old cant word for a sword:

“ I made my father's old *fox* fly about his ears.”

Beaumont and Fletcher's *Philaster*.

The same expression occurs in *The two angry Women of Abington*, 1599:

“ I had a sword, ay the flower of Smithfield for a sword; a right *fox* i'faith.”

Again,



Again, in *The Devil's Charter*, 1607:

“ And by this awful cross upon my blade,

“ And by this *fox* which stinks of Pagan blood.”

STEEVENS.

582. *For I will fetch thy rim——*] This line is wanting in the quartos 1600 and 1608. The folio reads, *thy rhyme*. It appears, however, from sir Arthur George's *Translation of Lucan*, 1614, that some part of the intestines was anciently called the *rimme*, Lucan. B. I.

“ The slender *rimme* too weake to part

“ The boyling livar from the heart——”

——*parvusque secatur vitalia limes*. L. 623.

“ *Parvus limes* (says one of the scholiasts) præcordia indicat; membrana illa quæ cor et pulmones a jecore et liene dirimit.” I believe it is now called the *diaphragm* in human creatures, and the skirt or midriff in beasts; but still in some places, the *rim*.

Phil. Holland, in his translation of Pliny's *Nat. Hist.* several times mentions the *rim* of the paunch, See B. XXVIII. ch. ix. p. 321, &c. STEEVENS.

586. *Brass cur!*—] Either Shakspeare had very little knowledge in the French language, or his over-fondness for punning led him in this place, contrary to his own judgment, into an error. Almost every one knows that the French word *bras* is pronounced *brau*; and what resemblance of sound does this bear to *brass*, that *Pistol* should reply *Brass cur*? The joke would appear to a reader, but would scarce be discovered in the performance of the play.

Sir W. RAWLINSON.



If the pronunciation of the French language be not changed since Shakspeare's time, which is not unlikely, it may be suspected some other man wrote the French scenes.

JOHNSON.

Dr. Johnson makes a doubt, whether the pronunciation of the French language may not be changed since Shakspeare's time; "if not," says he, "it may be suspected that some other man wrote the French scenes;" but this does not appear to be the case, at least in this termination from the rules of the grammarians, or the practice of the poets. I am certain of the former from the French *Alphabet* of De la Mothe, and the *Orthoepia Gallica* of John Eliot; and of the latter from the rhymes of Marot, Ronsard, and Du Bartas.—Connections of this kind were very common. Shakspeare himself assisted Ben Jonson in his *Scianus* as it was originally written; and Fletcher in his *Two Noble Kinsmen*.

FARMER.

587. ———luxurious mountain goat] *Luxurious* means *lascivious*.

STEEVENS.

590. ———a ton of moys?] *Moys* is a piece of money, whence *moi d'or*, or *moi*, of gold.

JOHNSON.

596. ———and firk him.——] The word *firk* is so variously used by the old writers, that it is almost impossible to ascertain its precise meaning. On this occasion it may mean to *chastise*. So, in *Ram-Alley*, or *Merry Tricks*, 1611:

“ —————nay, I will *firk*

“ My silly novice, as he was never *firk'd*

“ Since midwives bound his noddle.”

In



In Beaumont and Fletcher's *Rule a Wife, &c.* it means to collect by low and dishonest industry :

“ ———these five years she has *firk'd*

“ A pretty living.”

Again, in *Ram-Alley*, it seems to be employed in the sense of—*quibble* :

“ Sir, leave this *firk* of law, or by this light,”  
&c.

In the *Alchemist*, it is obscenely used. STEEVENS.

637. ———*this roaring devil i' the old play,*——] In modern puppet-shows, which seem to be copied from the old farces, *punch* sometimes fights the devil, and always overcomes him. I suppose the *vice* of the old farce, to whom *punch* succeeds, used to fight the devil with a wooden dagger. JOHNSON.

———*like this roaring devil in the old play* ;] This is perhaps a sneer at the old play of *Henry the Fifth*, which I have mentioned before. There is in it a character called *Derick*, who behaves to him just as *Pistol* does in the scene before us. The first time *Derick* makes his appearance, he *enters roaring*, (one of the editions reads *rouing*) and throughout the piece, utters an oath with almost every line he speaks.

The devil, however, in the old mysteries, is as turbulent and vain-glorious as *Pistol*. So, in one of the *Coventry Whitsun Plays*, preserved in the British Museum. *Vespasian*. D. VIII. p. 136.

“ I am your lord Lucifer that out of helle cam,

“ Prince of this world, and gret duke of helle ;

“ Wherefore



“ Wherefore my name is clepyd ser Satan,

“ Whech aperyth among you a mater to spelle.”

And perhaps the character was always performed in the most clamorous manner. STEEVENS.

652. *O perdurable shame!*——] *Perdurable* is lasting, long to continue. So, in Daniel’s *Civil Wars*, &c.

“ Triumphant arcs of *perdurable* might.”

STEEVENS.

656. *Let us die instant:—Once more back again;*] This verse, which is quite left out in Mr. Pope’s editions, stands imperfect in the first folio. By the addition of a syllable, I think I have retrieved the poet’s sense. It is thus in the old copy:

*Let us die in once more back again.* THEOBALD.

I rather think, the word omitted in the first folio at the press, was *fight*, or *arms*:

Let us die in *fight*:—Once more back again, &c.  
So, in *Macbeth*:

“ At least we’ll *die with harness on our backs.*”

The quarto reads,

A plague of order!——once more to the field,  
And he, &c.

The second, and all the subsequent folios,

Let us *fly* in once more back again. MALONE.

659. *Like a base pander,*——] The quartos read,

*Like a base leno,*—— STEEVENS.

664. *Unto these English, or else die with fame.*] This line I have restored from the quartos 1600 and 1608. The constable of France is throughout the play represented



sented as a brave and generous enemy, and therefore we should not deprive him of a resolution which agrees so well with his character. STEEVENS.

696. *A testament of noble-ending love.*] The quarto reads,

An argument of never-ending love. MALONE.

*But all my mother came into mine eyes,*

700. *And gave me up to tears.*] This thought is apparently copied by Milton, *Par. Lost*, b. xi.

“ ———compassion quell’d

“ His best of man, and gave him up to tears.”

STEEVENS.

Dryden also, in *All for Love*, a 1. has the same expression.

“ Look, Emperor, this is no common dew,

“ I have not wept this forty years ; but now

“ *My mother comes afresh into my eyes ;*

“ I cannot help her softness.”

REED.

Does not *mother* here signify that convulsive emotion occasioned by insuppressible grief ?

Thus, in *Lear* :

“ O, how this *mother* swells up toward my heart !

“ *Hysterica passio !* down thou climbing sorrow,

“ Thy element’s below !——” HENLEY.

708. *Give the word through.*] Here the quartos 1600 and 1608 add,

Pist. *Couper gorge.*

STEEVENS.

709. Scene VII.] Here in the other editions, they begin the fourth act very absurdly, since both the place



place and time evidently continue, and the words of Fluellen immediately follow those of the king just before.

POPE.

*Kill the poyes and the luggage! 'tis expressly against the law of arms:]* In the old folios, the 4th act is made to begin here. But as the matter of the Chorus, which is to come betwixt the 4th and 5th acts, will by no means sort with the *scenery* that here follows, I have chose to fall in with the other regulation. Mr. Pope gives a reason why this scene should be connective to the preceding scene; but his reason, according to custom, is a mistaken one. “The words of Fluellen,” says he, “immediately follow those of the king just before.” The king’s last words, at his going off, were:

*Then ev’ry soldier kill his prisoners:*

*Give the word through.*

Now Mr. Pope must very accurately suppose, that Fluellen overhears this; and that by replying, *Kill the poyes and the luggage! 'tis expressly against the law of arms;*—he is condemning the king’s order, as against martial discipline. But this is a most absurd supposition. Fluellen neither overhears, nor replies to, what the King had said; nor has *kill the poyes and the luggage* any reference to the soldiers killing their prisoners; nay, on the contrary (as there is no interval of an act here), there must be some little pause betwixt the king’s going off, and Fluellen’s entering (and therefore I have said, *Alarms continued*); for we find by Gower’s first speech, that the soldiers had already cut their prisoners throats, which required some time to do. The  
matter



matter is this: The baggage during the battle (as King Henry had no men to spare) was guarded only by boys and lacqueys; which some French run-aways getting notice of, they came down upon the English camp-boys, whom they kill'd and plundered, and burn'd the baggage; in resentment of which villany it was, that the king, contrary to his wonted lenity, ordered all prisoners' throats to be cut. And to this villany of the French run-aways, Fluellen si alluding, when he says, *Kill the poyes and the luggage!* The fact is set out (as Mr. Pope might have observed) both by Hall and Holinshed.

THEOBALD.

Unhappily the king gives one reason for his order to kill the prisoners, and Gower another. The king killed his prisoners because he expected another battle, and he had not men sufficient to guard one army and fight another. Gower declares that the *gallant king* has *worthily* ordered the prisoners to be destroyed, because the luggage was plundered, and the boys were slain.

JOHNSON.

754. — *As Alexander, &c.*] I should suspect that Shakspeare, who was well read in Sir Thomas North's translation of *Plutarch*, meant these speeches of Fluellen, as a ridicule on the parallels of the Greek author, in which, circumstances common to all men are assembled in opposition, and one great action is forced into comparison with another, though as totally different in themselves, as was the behaviour of Harry Monmouth from that of Alexander the Great.

STEEVENS.



757. —*the fat knight*—] This is the last time that Falstaff can make sport. The poet was loath to part with him, and has continued his memory as long as he could. JOHNSON.

770. *And make them skir away,*—] This word has already occur'd in *Macbeth*. STEVENS.

772. *Besides, we'll cut the throats, &c.*] The king is in a very bloody disposition. He has already cut the throats of his prisoners, and threatens now to cut them again. No haste of composition could produce such negligence; neither was this play, which is the second draught of the same design, written in haste. There must be some dislocation of the scenes. If we place these lines at the beginning of the twelfth scene, the absurdity will be removed, and the action will proceed in a regular series. This transposition might easily happen in copies written for the players. Yet it must not be concealed, that in the imperfect play of 1608 the order of the scenes is the same as here.

JOHNSON.

The difference of the two copies may be thus accounted for. The elder was, perhaps taken down, during the representation, by the contrivance of some bookseller who was in haste to publish it; or it might with equal probability, have been collected from the repetitions of actors invited to a tavern for that purpose. The manner in which many of the scenes are printed adds strength to the supposition; for in these a single line is generally divided into two, that the quantity of the play might be seemingly increased.—The second and more ample edition



edition may be that which regularly belonged to the playhouse ; and yet with equal confidence we may pronounce, that every dramattick composition would materially suffer, if only transmitted to the publick through the medium of ignorance, presumption, and caprice, those common attendants on a theatre. STEEVENS.

There is no difference, that I can find, in the two copies. Both the quarto and the folio has these lines.

MALONE.

790. Yerk out their armed heel,——] So, in *The Weakest goes to the Wall*, 1618 :

“ Their neighing gennets, armed to the field,

“ Do yerk and fling, and beat the sullen ground.”

STEEVENS.

812. ——*Monmouth caps* ;——] *Monmouth caps* were formerly much worn. From the following stanza in an old ballad of the *caps*, printed in *The Antidote against Melancholy* 1661, p. 31. it appears they were particularly worn by soldiers :

“ The soldiers that the *Monmouth* wear

“ On castles tops their ensigns rear.

“ The seamen with the thrumb doth stand

“ On higher parts than all the land.”

REED.

To this Mr. Reed might have added, that these caps are still the common wear of seamen. \* \* \*

848. ——*great sort*,——] High rank. So, in the ballad of *Jane Shore* :

“ Lords and ladies of *great sort*.”

JOHNSON.

The quartos 1600 and 1608 read,

I ij

——his



—his enemy may be a gentleman of worth.

STEEVENS.

848. —quite from the answer of his degree.] A man of such station as is not bound to hazard his person to answer to a challenge from one of the soldiers *low degree*.  
JOHNSON.

910. —into plows,—] The *Revisal* reads, very plausibly,

“in two plows.”

JOHNSON.

The quarto reads, *I will give treason his due presently*. We might therefore read—in due plows, i. e. in the beating that is so well his *due*.

Fuller, in his *Church History*, p. 139, speaks of the task-masters of Israel, “on whose back the number of bricks wanting were only scored in blows.”

STEEVENS.

The Scotch, both in speaking and in writing, frequently use *into* for *in*. However, if it should be thought necessary to amend the text, the readiest way would be to omit a syllable, and read—in plows.

REMARKS.

935. Give me thy glove—Look, here is the fellow of it.]

The king, by “thy glove,” meant—the glove that thou hast now in thy cap, i. e. Henry’s Glove.

MALONE.

970. —Charles Duke of Orleans, &c.] This list is copied from Hall.

POPE.

982. —sixteen hundred mercenaries;] Mercenaries are in this place common soldiers, or hired soldiers. The gentlemen served at their own charge in consequence of their tenures.

JOHNSON.

986.



986. *Charles De-la-bret,*] *De-la-bret*, as is already observed, should be *Charles D'Albert*, would the measure permit of such a change. Holinshed sometimes apologizes for the omission of foreign names, on account of his inability to spell them, but always calls this nobleman “the lord *de la Breth*, constable of France.” See, p. 549, and p. 555, &c. STEEVENS.

997. *Edward the duke of York,*—] This speech, which in the quartos is given to *Exeter*, appears in the folio as part of the king's. STEEVENS.

1018. *Do we all holy rites;*] The king (say the *Chronicles*) caused the Psalm, *In exitu Israel de Ægypto* (in which, according to the vulgate, is included the Psalm, *Non nobis, Domine*, &c.) to be sung after the victory, POPE.

## ACT V.

Line 12. — *A MIGHTY whiffler*—] An officer who walks first in processions, or before persons in high stations, on occasions of ceremony. The name is still retained in London; and there is an officer so called that walks before their companies at times of publick solemnity. It seems a corruption from the French word *huissier*. HANMER.

— *a mighty whiffler*—] See Mr. Warton's note to the tragedy of *Othello*, act iii. sc. ii.



In the play of *Clyomon, Knight of the Golden Shield*, &c. 159, a *whiffler* makes his appearance at a tournament, clearing the way before the king. In *Westward Hoe*, by Decker and Webster, 1612, the term is often mentioned. Again, in *Monsieur D'Olive*, 1606:

“ I can go into no corner, but I meet with some of my *whiffers* in their accoutrements; you may hear them half a mile ere they come at you.”

“ ——I am afraid of nothing but that I shall be balladed, I and all my *whiffers*.”

Again, in *Westward Hoe*, 1607:

“ The torch-men and *whiffers* had an item to receive him.”

Again, in *TEXNOTAMIA*, 1618:

“ Tobacco is a *whiffler*,

“ And cries huff snuff with furie:

“ His pipe's his club and linke,” &c.

Again, in *The Isle of Gulls*, 1633:

“ And Manasses shall go before like a *whiffler*, and make way with his horns.”

STEEVENS.

21. *Giving full trophy,——*] Transferring all the honours of conquest, all trophies, tokens, and shews, from himself to God.

JOHNSON.

26. *Like to the senators of antique Rome,*] This is a very extraordinary compliment to the city. But he ever declines all general satire on them; and in the epilogue to *Henry VIII.* he hints with disapprobation on his contemporary poets, who were accustomed to abuse them. Indeed, his satire is very rarely partial and licentious.

WARBURTON.



29. ———*likelihood*] *Likelihood* for similitude.

WARBURTON.

The later editors, in hope of mending the measure of this line, have injured the sense. The folio reads as I have printed; but all the books, since revisal became fashionable, and editors have been more diligent to display themselves than to illustrate their author, have given the line thus :

“*As by a low, but loving likelihood.*”

Thus they have destroyed the praise which the poet designed for Essex; for who would think himself honoured by the epithet *low*? The poet desirous to celebrate that great man, whose popularity was then his boast, and afterwards his destruction, compares him to king Harry; but being afraid to offend the rival courtiers, or perhaps the queen herself, he confesses that he *is lower* than a king, but would never have represented him absolutely, as *low*. JOHNSON.

30. *Were now the general, &c.*] The earl of Essex, in the reign of queen Elizabeth. POPE.

32. *Bringing rebellion broached*——] Spitted, transfixed. JOHNSON.

46. *Enter Fluellen and Gower.*] This scene ought, in my opinion, to conclude the fourth act, and be placed before the last chorus. There is no English camp in this act; the quarrel apparently happened before the return of the army to England, and not after so long an interval as the chorus has supplied.

JOHNSON.

*Fluellen* presently says, that he wore his leek in consequence



sequence of an affront he had received but the day before from *Pistol*. Their present quarrel has therefore no reference to that begun in the sixth scene of the third act.

STEEVENS.

64. *To have me fold up, &c.*] Dost thou desire to have me put thee to death.

JOHNSON.

80. ———*a squire of low degree.*] This alludes to an old metrical romance, which was very popular among our countrymen in ancient times, intitled, *The Squire of low Degree*. It was burlesqued by Chaucer in his rhyme of *Sir Thopas*, and begins thus:

“It was a *squyre of low degre*

“That loved the king’s daughter of Hungre.”

See *Reliques of English Poetry*, vol. iii. p. 30. 2d edit.

PERCY.

83. ———*astonish’d him.*] *i. e.* you have stunned him with the blow.

JOHNSON.

92. *I eat, and eat, I swear——*] Thus the first folio, for which the late editors have put, *I eat and swear*. We should read, I suppose, in the frigid tumour of *Pistol*’s dialect:

“*I eat and eke I swear.*”

JOHNSON.

120. *gleeking——*] *i. e.* scoffing, sneering.

STEEVENS.

126. *Doth fortune play the huswife——*] *i. e.* the jilt. *Huswife* is here in an ill sense.

JOHNSON.

127. *News have I, that my Dol is dead——*] We must read, *my Nell is dead*. *Dol Tearsheet* was so little the favourite of *Pistol*, that he offered her in contempt to *Nym*. Nor would her death have cut off  
his



*his rendezvous; i. e. deprived him of a home.* Perhaps the poet forgot his plan. In the quartos of 1600 and 1608, these lines are read thus:

“Doth fortune play the *kustoye* with me now?

“Is honour cudgel’d from my warlike lines?

“Well, France farewell. News have I certainly,

“That Doll is sick on mallydie of France.

“The warres affordeth nought, home will I trug,

“Bawd will I turne, and use the slyte of hand.

“To England will I steal, and there I’ll steal;

“And patches will I get unto these skarres,

“And swear I gat them in the Gallia warres.”

JOHNSON.

125. The comick scenes of *The History of Henry the Fourth and Fifth* are now at an end, and all the comick personages are now dismissed. Falstaff and Mrs. Quickly are dead; Nym and Bardolph are hanged; Gadds-hill was lost immediately after the robbery; Poins and Peto have vanished since, one knows not how; and Pistol is now beaten into obscurity. I believe every reader regrets their departure. JOHNSON.

136. *Peace to this meeting, wherefore we are met!]* Peace, for which we are here met, be to this meeting.

Here, after the chorus, the fifth act seems naturally to begin. JOHNSON.

162. *Unto this bar——]* To this *barrier*; to this place of congress. JOHNSON.

176. *Her vine,——*

*Unpruned dies:——]* We must read, *lyes*; for neglect of pruning does not kill the vine, but causes



ses it to ramify immoderately, and grow wild ; by which the requisite nourishment is withdrawn from its fruit.

WARBURTON.

This emendation is physically right, but poetically the vine may be well enough said to die which ceases to bear fruit.

JOHNSON.

178. *Like prisoners*——] This image of prisoners is oddly introduced. A *hedge even pleach'd* is more properly imprisoned than when it luxuriates in unpruned exuberance.

JOHNSON.

182. ——*deracinate*——] To *deracinate* is to force up by the roots. So, in *Troilus and Cressida* :

“ ——rend and *deracinate*

“ The unity,” &c.

STEEVENS.

190. *Defective in their natures*,——] *Nature* had been changed by some editors into *nurture* ; but, as Mr. Upton observes, unnecessarily. *Sua deficiuntur natura*. They were not defective in their *crecive* nature, for they grew to wildness ; but they were defective in their proper and favourable nature, which was to bring forth food for man.

STEEVENS.

196. ——*diffus'd attire*,] *Diffus'd* is so much used by our author for *wild, irregular, and strange*, that in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* he applies it to a song supposed to be sung by fairies.

JOHNSON.

198. ——*former favour*,] Former *appearance*.

JOHNSON.

217. ——*We will, suddenly,*

*Pass our accept, and peremptory answer.*] *i. e.* we will pass our acceptance of what we approve, and

we



we will pass a peremptory answer to the rest. Politeness might forbid his saying, we will pass a denial, but his own dignity required more time for deliberation.

TOLLET.

235. *Fair Katharine, and most fair !]* Shakspeare might have taken the hint for this scene from the anonymous play of *Henry V.* so often quoted, where the king begins with greater bluntness, and with an exordium most truly English ;

“ How now, fair lady Katharine of France !

“ What news ?”

STEEVENS.

261. — *such a plain king,*] I know not why Shakspeare now gives the king nearly such a character as he made him formerly ridicule in Percy. This military grossness and unskilfulness in all the softer arts does not suit very well with the gayeties of his youth, with the general knowledge ascribed to him at his accession, or with the contemptuous message sent him by the dauphin, who represents him as fitter for the ball-room than the field, and tells him that he is not to *revel into dutchies*, or win provinces *with a nimble galliard*. The truth is, that the poet's matter failed him in the fifth act, and he was glad to fill it up with whatever he could get ; and not even Shakspeare can write well without a proper subject. It is a vain endeavour for the most skilful hand to cultivate barrenness, or to paint upon vacuity.

JOHNSON.

267. *clap hands—]* See *Winter's Tale*. REED.

290. — *take a fellow of plain and uncoined constancy—]*



*stancy*——] *i. e.* A constancy in the ingot, that hath suffered no alloy, as all coined metal has.

WARBURTON.

I believe this explanation is more ingenious than true; to *coin* is to *stamp* and to *counterfeit*. He uses it in both senses; *uncoined* constancy signifies *real* and *true* constancy, *unrefined* and *unadorned*. JOHNSON.

307. *Is it possible dat I should love de enemy of France?*] So, in the anonymous play of the *Famous Victory of Henry the Fifth*:

“*Kate.* How should I love thee, which is my father’s enemy?” STEEVENS.

318. ——*like a married wife about her husband’s neck*,——] The folio reads, a *new married* wife, and the quartos 1600 and 1608——*like a bride on her new-married husband*. STEEVENS.

344. ——*with scrambling*,——] *i. e.* scrambling. See Dr. Percy’s note on the first scene of this play.

STEEVENS.

348. *go to Constantinople*——] Shakspeare has here committed an anachronism. The Turks were not possessed of Constantinople before the year 1143, when Henry V. had been dead thirty-one years.

THEOBALD.

364. *poor and untempering effect*——] The sense is, I understand that you love me, notwithstanding my face has no power to *temper*, *i. e.* soften you to my purpose:

“——nature made you

“*To temper man*——” *Otway*.



So, again in *Titus Andronicus*, which may, at least, be quoted as the work of an author contemporary with Shakspeare:

“ And *temper* him with all the art I have.”

STEEVENS.

419. *Your lips should sooner persuade Harry of England, than a general petition of monarchs.*] So, in the old anonymous *Henry V.*

“ ———Tell thy father from me, that none in the world should sooner have persuaded me,” &c.

STEEVENS.

427. ———*my condition is not smooth.*] *Condition is temper.* So, in *K. Henry IV. Part I. sc. iii.*

“ ———my condition,

“ Which has been *smooth* as oil,” &c.

STEEVENS.

453. *This moral*——] *i. e.* the application of this fable. The *moral* being the application of a fable, our author calls any application a *moral*. JOHNSON.

479. *notre très cher filz*—and thus in Latin; *præclarissimus filius*.——] What, is *très cher*, in French, *Præclarissimus* in Latin? We should read, *precarissimus*.  
WARBURTON.

“ This is exceeding true,” says Dr. Farmer, “ but how came the blunder? It is a typographical one in Holinshed, which Shakspeare copied; but must indisputably have been corrected, had he been acquainted with the languages.” STEEVENS.

510. *Prepare we, &c.*] The quartos 1600 and 1608 conclude with the following speech:

K

“ Hen.



“ Hen. *Why then fair Katharine,*

“ *Come, give me thy hand:*

“ *Our marriage will we present solemnize,*

“ *And end our hatred by a bond of love.*

“ *Then will I swear to Kate, and Kate to me,*

“ *And may our vows once made, unbroken be.”*

STEEVENS.

516. *Our bending author——*] By bending, our author meant *unequal to the weight of his subject, and bending beneath it*; or he may mean, as in *Hamlet*:

“ *Here stooping to your clemency.”*      STEEVENS.

518. *Mangling by starts——*] By touching only on select parts.      JOHNSON.

THE END.





# ANNOTATIONS

BY

SAM. JOHNSON & GEO. STEEVENS,

AND

THE VARIOUS COMMENTATORS,

UPON

K I N G H E N R Y VI.

P A R T I.

WRITTEN BY

WILL. SHAKSPERE.

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—SIC ITUR AD ASTRA.

VIRG.

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M D C C L X X X V I I .



THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF CHARLES THE FIRST

AND

THE HISTORY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

AND OF THE REIGN OF CHARLES THE SECOND

BY

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

IN TEN VOLUMES

THE FIRST VOLUME

CONTAINING

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AND OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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THE FIRST VOLUME

CONTAINING





*A N N O T A T I O N S*  
U P O N  
K I N G H E N R Y V I.  
P A R T I.

---

*A C T I.*

---

*Line 3. BRANDISH your crystal tresses—]* *Crystal* is an epithet repeatedly bestowed on comets by our ancient writers. So, in a *Sonnet*, Lord Sterline, 1604:

“When as those *crystal* comets whiles appear.”

Spenser, in his *Faery Queene*, Book I. c. x. applies it to a lady's face:

“Like sunny beams threw from her *crystal* face.”

Again in an ancient song entitled: *The falling out of Lovers is the renewing of Love*:

“You *crystal* planets shine all clear

“And light a lover's way.”



“There is also a *white comet* with silver haire,” says *Pliny*, as translated by P. Holland, 1601.

STEEVENS.

5. *That have consented*——] If this expression mean no more than that the stars gave a bare *consent*, or *agreed* to let king Henry die, it does no great honour to its author. I believe to *consent*, in this instance, means to act in concert. *Concentus*, Lat. Thus *Erato* the muse applauding the song of Apollo, in Lylly's *Midas*, 1592, cries out: “O sweet *consent*!” i. e. sweet union of sounds.

Again, in Spenser's *Faery Queene*, B. IV. c. ii.

“Such musick his wise words with time *consented*.”

Again, in his translation of Virgil's *Culex*:

“Chaunted their sundry notes with sweet *concent*.”

and in many other places. *Consented*, or as it should be spelt, *concented*, means, *have thrown themselves into a malignant configuration, to promote the death of Henry*. Spenser, in more than one instance, spells this word as it appears in the text of Shakspeare; as does Ben Jonson, in his *Ephithalamion on Mr. Weston*. The following lines:

“——shall we curse the planets of mishap,

“That *plotted* thus,” &c.

seem to countenance my explanation; and Falstaff says of Shallow's servants, that——“they flock together in *consent*, like so many wild geese.”

STEEVENS.

25. ——*the subtle-witted French*, &c] There was a notion prevalent a long time, that life might be taken



away by metrical charms. As superstition grew weaker, these charms were imagined only to have power on irrational animals. In our author's time it was supposed that the Irish could kill rats by a song.

JOHNSON.

So, in Reginald Scot's *Discoveries of Witchcraft*, 1584: "The Irishmen addiēt themselves, &c. yea they will not sticke to affirme that they can *rime* either man or beast to death."

STEEVENS.

50. *Our isle be made a marish of salt tears.*] I have been informed, that what we call at present a *stew*, in which fish are preserved alive, was anciently called a *nourish*.

*Nourice*, however, Fr. a nurse, was anciently spelt many different ways, among which *nourish* was one:

"Of that chylde she was blyth,

"After *noryshes* she sent belive."

*Syr Eglamour of Artois*, bl. l. no date.

A *nourish*, therefore, in this passage of our author, signifies a *nurse*, as it apparently does in the 12th chapter of the first book of the *Tragedies of John Bochas*, by Lydgate;

"——thenes whan it was in his floures

"Was called *nourish* of philosophers wise."

"——Jubæ tellus generat, leonum

"*Arida nutrix.*" STEEVENS.

Spenser, in his *Ruins of Time*, uses *nourice* as an English word:

"Chaucer, the *nourice* of antiquity."

MALONE.



56. *Than Julius Cæsar, or bright—*] T. Hammer has stopped at *Cæsar*. It might, however, have been written,—*or bright Berenice*. JOHNSON.

60. *Guienne, Champagne, Rheims, Orleans,*] This verse might be completed by the insertion of *Roan* among the places lost, as Gloster in his next speech infers, that it had been mentioned with the rest.

STEEVENS.

88. *To weep their intermissive miseries.*] *i. e.* their miseries, which have had only a short intermission from Henry the Fifth's death to my coming amongst them. WARBURTON.

112. *Having full scarce, &c.*] So, in the *Tempest*:

“ ———Prospero, master of a *full* poor cell.”

STEEVENS.

131. *If Sir John Fastolfe—*] Mr. Pope has taken notice, “ That Falstaff is here introduced again, who was dead in *Henry V.* The occasion whereof is, that this play was written before *Henry IV.* or *Henry V.*” But Sir John Fastolfe (for so he is called) was a lieutenant general, deputy regent to the duke of Bedford in Normandy, and a knight of the garter; and not the comick character afterwards introduced by our author. THEOBALD.

Mr. Theobald might have seen his notion contradicted in the very line he quotes from. *Fastolfe*, whether truly or not, is said by Hall and Holinshed to have been degraded for cowardice. Dr. Heylin, in his *St. George for England*, tells us, that “ he was afterwards, upon good reason by him alledged in his defence,



defence, restored to his honour.”—“ This Sir *John Fastolfe*,” continues he, “ was without doubt, a valiant and wise captain, notwithstanding the stage hath made merry with him.”

FARMER.

In the 18th song of Drayton's *Polyolbion* is the following character of this *Sir John Fastolph*:

“ Strong *Fastolph* with this man compare we justly may,

“ By Salsbury who oft being seriously imploy'd

“ In many a brave attempt the general foe annoy'd ;

“ With excellent successe in Main and Anjou fought,

“ And many a bulwarke there into our keeping brought ;

“ And chosen to go forth with Vadamont in warre,

“ Most resolutely tooke proud Renate duke of Barre.”

STEEVENS.

For an account of this Sir John Fastolfe, see *Anstis's Treatise on the Order of the Garter* ; *Parkins's Supplement to Blomfield's History of Norfolk* ; *Tanner's Bibliotheca Britannica*. *Capel's notes*, Vol. I. p. 228.

REED.

and *Fenn's Collection of the Paston Letters*. HENLEY.

132. *He being in the vaward* (*plac'd behind*,] Some of the editors seem have considered this as a contradiction in terms, and have proposed to read—the *rereward*,—but without necessity. Some part of the van must have been behind the foremost line of it.

STEEVENS.



178. *Mars his true moving, &c.*] So Nash, in one of his prefaces before *Gabriel Harvey's Hunt is up*, 1596:—"You are as ignorant in the true movings of my muse, as the astronomers are in the *true movings of Mars*, which to this day they could never attain to."

STEEVENS.

205. ———*as their hungry prey.*] I believe it should be read:

*As their hungred prey.*

JOHNSON.

207. *England all Olivers and Rowlands bred,*] These were two of the most famous in the list of Charlemagne's twelve peers; and their exploits are render'd so ridiculously and equally extravagant by the old romancers, that from thence arose that saying amongst our plain and sensible ancestors, of *giving one a Rowland for his Oliver*, to signify the matching one incredible lie with another.

WARBURTON.

Rather, to oppose one hero to another, i. e. *to give a person as good a one as he brings.*

STEEVENS.

218. ———*gimmals*—] A *gimmal* is a piece of jointed work, where one pin moves within another, whence it is taken at large for an *engine*. It is now by the vulgar called a *gimcrack*.

JOHNSON.

In the inventory of the jewels, &c. belonging to Salisbury cathedral, taken in 1536, 28th of Henry VIII. is---"A faire chest with *gimmals* and key." Again, "Three other chests with *gimmals* of silver and gilt."

STEEVENS.

225. ———*your cheer appall'd ;---*] *Cheer* is countenance, appearance.

STEEVENS.



233. ——— *nine Sibyls of old Rome;*] There were no *nine Sibyls* of Rome; but he confounds things, and mistakes this for the nine books of Sibylline oracles, brought to one of the Tarquins. WARBURTON.

235. *Believe my words,*] It should be read :

————— *believe her words.*

JOHNSON.

276. *Deck'd with fine flower-de-luces, &c.*] We should read, according to Holinshed, *five* flower-de-luces. “ ——— in a secret place there among old iron, appointed she hir sword to be sought out and brought her, that with *five* floure-de-lices was graven on both sides,” &c.

STEEVENS.

285. *Impatiently I burn with thy desire;*] The amorous constitution of the Dauphin has been mentioned in the preceding play :

“ *Doing* is activity, and he will still be *doing*.”

COLLINS.

308. *Expect saint Martin's summer,*] That is, expect *prosperity* after *misfortune*, like fair weather at Martlemas, after winter has begun.

JOHNSON.

310. *Glory is like a circle in the water,*

*Which never ceases to enlarge itself,*

*'Till, by broad spreading, it disperse to nought.]*

So, in NOSCE TEIPSUM, a poem by Sir John Davies, 1599 :

“ As when a stone is into water cast,

“ One circle doth another circle make,

“ Till the last circle reach the bank at last.”

See also Statius, lib. 13, v. 24.

MALONE.



315. ——— *like that proud insulting ship,  
Which Cæsar and his fortune bore at once.*] This alludes to a passage in Plutarch's *Life of Julius Cæsar*, thus translated by Sir T. North. "Cæsar hearing that, straight discovered himself unto the maister of the pinnase, who at the first was amazed when he saw him: but Cæsar, &c. said unto him, Good fellow, be of good cheere, &c. and fear not, for *thou hast Cæsar his fortune with thee.*" STEEVENS.

317. Dauph. *Was Mahomet inspired with a dove?*] *Mahomet* had a dove, "which he used to feed with wheat out of his ear; which dove, when it was hungry, lighted on Mahomet's shoulder, and thrust his bill in to find its breakfast; *Mahomet* persuading the rude and simple Arabians, that it was the Holy Ghost that gave him advice." See Sir *Walter Raleigh's History of the Word*, Book I. Part I. ch. vi. *Life of Mahomet*, by Dr. Prideaux. GREY.

320. *Nor yet saint Philip's daughters,—*] Meaning the four daughters of Philip mentioned in the *Acts*. HANMER.

329. ——— *there is conveyance.*——] *Conveyance* means theft. HANMER.

340. Break up *the gates*,——] I suppose *to break up the gate*, is to force up the portcullis, or, by the application of petards, to blow up the gates themselves. STEEVENS.

*To break up*, in Shakspeare's age, was the same as to *break open*. Thus in our translation of the Bible. "They



“ They have *broken up*, and have passed through the *gate*.” Micah, c. 2. v. 13. So, again in St. Matthew, “ He would have watched; and would not have suffered his house to *be broken up*.” c. 24. v. 43.

WHALLEY.

356. — *tawny coats*.] It appears from the following passage in a comedy called, *A Maidenhead well Lost*, 1634, that a *tawny coat* was the dress of a *sumpner*, i. e. an apparitor, an officer whose business it was to summon offenders to an ecclesiastical court:

“ Tho’ I was never a *tawny-coat*, I have play’d the *sommoner’s* part.”

These are the natural attendants therefore on the bishop of Winchester. So, in Stowe’s *Chronicle*, p. 822: “ —and by the way the *bishop* of London met him, attended on by a goodly company of gentlemen in *tawny-coats*,” &c.

*Tawny* was likewise a colour worn for mourning, as well as *black*; and was therefore the proper and sober habit of any person employed in an ecclesiastical court.

“ A crowne of baies shall that man weare

“ That triumphes over me;

“ For *blacke* and *tawnie* will I weare,

“ Which mourning colours be.”

The Complaint of a Lover wearing *blaeke* and *tawnie*; by E. O. *Paradise of Dainty Devises*, 1596.

STEEVENS.

357. *Piel’d priest*, —] Alluding to his shaven crown.

POPE.

In



In Skinner (to whose dictionary I was directed by Mr. Edwards) I find that it means more: *Pill'd* or *peel'd* garlick, *cui pellis, vel pili omnes ex morbo aliquo, præsertim e lue venerea, defluerunt.*

In Ben Jonson's *Bartholemew Fair* the following instance occurs:

“ I'll see them p——'d first, and *pil'd* and double *pil'd*.” STEEVENS.

In Weever's *Funeral Monuments*, p. 134. Robert Baldocke, Bishop of London, is called a *peel'd* priest, *pilide* clerk, seemingly in allusion to his shaven crown alone. So, *bald-head* was a term of scorn and mockery.

TOLLET.

362. *Thou that giv'st whores indulgences to sin:—*] The publick stews were formerly under the direction of the bishop of Winchester. POPE.

There is now extant an old manuscript (formerly the office-book of the court-leet held under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Winchester in Southwark), in which are mentioned the several fees arising from the brothel-houses allowed to be kept in the bishop's manor, with the customs and regulations of them. One of the articles is,

“ *De his, qui custodiunt mulieres habentes nefandam infirmitatem.*”

“ *Item, That no stewholder keep any woman within his house, that hath any sickness of brenning, but that she be put out upon pain of making a fyne unto the lord of C shillings.*” UPTON.

363. *I'll canvass thee in thy broad cardinal's hat,*]

This



This means, I believe, *I'll tumble thee into thy great hat, and shake thee, as bran and meal are shaken in a sieve.*

So, Sir *W. Davenant*, in the *Cruel Brother*, 1630:

“ I'll sift and winnow him in an old hat.”

To *canvass* was anciently used for *to sift*. So, in *Hans Beer-pot's Invisible Comedy*, 1618:

“ ———We'll canvass him.———

“ ———I am too big———”

Again in the Epistle Dedicatory to *Have with you to Saffron Walden, or Gabriel Hervey's Hunt is up, &c.* 1596:

——“ *canvaze* him and his angel brother Gabriel in ten sheets of paper,” &c.

STEEVENS.

May not the Duke mean, I will interrogate thee, and sift thy conduct, in defiance of the hat thou wear-est, and the support which the Pope may vouchsafe thee?

HENLEY.

366. *This be Damascus, be thou cursed Cain,*] *N. B.* About four miles from Damascus is a high hill, reported to be the same on which Cain slew his brother Abel. *Maundrel's Travels*, p. 131.

POPE.

“ And in that place where *Damasc* was founded *Kaym* sloughe *Abel* his brother.” *Mandeville's Travels*.

REED.

380. *Winchester goose!*——] A strumpet, or the consequences of her love, was a Winchester goose.

JOHNSON.

410. Mayor. *I'll call for clubs, if yon will not away:*——] This was an outcry for assistance, on any riot or quarrel in the streets. It hath been explained before.

WHALLEY.



416. ———that nobles should such stomachs bear!

*I myself fight not once in forty year.*] The Mayor speaks first as a magistrate, and afterwards as a citizen.

JOHNSON.

424. *The prince's 'spials*] *Espials* are spies. So, in Chaucer's *Freres Tale*:

“For subtilly he had his *espiaille*.” STEEVENS.

440. *Talbot*,] Though the three parts of *K. Henry VI.* are deservedly numbered among the feeblest performances of Shakspeare, this first of them appears to have been received with the greatest applause. So, in *Pierce Penniless Supplication to the Devil*, by Nash, 1595: “How would it have joyed brave *Talbot* (the terror of the French) to thinke that after he had line two hundred years in his tombe, he should triumph againe on the stage, and have his bones new embalmed with the teares of ten thousand spectators at least (at several times), who in the tragedian that represents his person, imagine they behold him fresh bleeding.”

STEEVENS.

450. ———so pill'd esteem'd.] *So pill'd*, means so pillag'd, so stripp'd of honours.

STEEVENS.

500. *One eye thou hast, &c.*] A similar thought occurs in *King Lear*:

“——my lord, you have one eye left,

“To see some mischief on him.”

STEEVENS.

524. *Pucelle or Puzzel*,——] It should be remembered, that in Shakspeare's time the word *dauphin* was always written *dolphin*.

STEEVENS.

*Pussel* means a dirtywench or a drab, from *puzza*, i. e. malus



malus fætor, says Minshew. In a translation from Stephens's *Apology for Herodotus*, in 1607, p. 98, we read,—“Some filthy queens, especially our *puzzles* of Paris, use this other theft.” TOLLET.

So, Stubbs, in his *Anatomie of Abuses*, 1595.—“No nor yet any droye nor *puzzel* in the country but will carry a nosegay in her hand.”

Again, in Ben Jonson's *Commendatory Verses*, prefix'd to the works of Beaumont and Fletcher:

“Lady or *Pusill* then wears mask or fan.”

As for the conceit, miserable as it is, it may be countenanced by that of James I. who looking at the statue of Sir *Tho. Bodley* in the library at Oxford, “—*Pii Thomæ Godly* nomine insignivit, eoque potius nomine quam *Bodly*, deinceps merito nominandum esse censuit.” See *Rex Platonicus*, &c. edit. quint. Oxon. 1635, p. 187. STEEVENS.

There are frequent references to this etymology in this play:

“I scar'd the dauphin and his *trull*.”

Again:

“Scoff on, vile fiend, and shameless *courtezan*!”

MALONE.

534. *Blood will I draw on thee*,——] The superstition of those times taught, that he that could draw the witch's blood, was free from her power. JOHNSON.

573. ——*like Adonis' gardens*,] It may not be impertinent to take notice of a dispute upon this very important point of the *gardens of Adonis*. Milton had said:



“ Spot more delicious than those gardens feign’d,

“ Or of reviv’d Adonis, or——”

which Dr. Bentley pronounces spurious; for that the *Κῆποι Ἀδωνιδος*, the gardens of Adonis, so frequently mentioned by Greek writers, Plato, Plutarch, &c. were nothing but portable earthen pots, with some lettice or fennel growing in them. On his yearly festival every woman carried one of them for Adonis’s worship; because Venus had once laid him in a lettice bed. The next day they were thrown away, &c. To this Dr. Pearce replies, That this account of the gardens of Adonis is right, and yet Milton may be defended for what he says of them: for why (says he) did the Grecians on Adonis’ festival carry these small gardens about in honour of him? It was, because they had a tradition, that, when he was alive, he delighted in gardens, and had a magnificent one: for proof of this we have Pliny’s words, xix. 4.” “Antiquitas nihil prius mirata est quàm Hesperidum hortos, ac regum Adonidis & Alcinoi.”

WARBURTON.

589. *Than Rhodope’s,——*] Rhodope was a famous strumpet, who acquired great riches by her trade. The least, but most finished of the Egyptian pyramids (says Pliny, in the 36th book of his *Natural History*) was built by her. She is said afterwards to have married Psammetichus, king of Egypt. Dr. Johnson thinks that the Dauphin means to call *Joan of Arc* a strumpet, all the while he is making this loud praise of her.

Rhodope is mentioned in the play of *The Costly Whore*, 1633:

“———a



“ ———a base *Rhodope*,  
 “ Whose body is as common as the sea  
 “ In the receipt of every lustful spring.”

I would read :

Than *Rhodope's of Memphis* ever was.

STEEVENS.

592. ———*coffer of Darius*] When Alexander the Great took the city of Gaza, the metropolis of Syria, amidst the other spoils and wealth of Darius treasured up there, he found an exceeding rich and beautiful little chest or casket, and asked those about him what they thought fittest to be laid up in it. When they had severally delivered their opinions, he told them, he esteemed nothing so worthy to be preserved in it as *Homer's Iliad*. Vide *Plutarchum in Vita Alexandri Magni*.

THEOBALD.

## ACT. II.

Line 41.—*UNREADY* so?] *Unready* was the current word in those times for *undress'd*. JOHNSON. So, in *The two Maids of More-clacke*, 1609 :

“ Enter James *unready* in his night-cap, garterless,” &c.

Again, in *A Match at Midnight*, 1633, is this stage direction :

“ He



“ *He makes himself unready.*”

“ Why what do you mean? you will not be so uncivil as to *unbrace* you here?”

Again, in *Monsieur D'olive*, 1606:

“ You are not going to bed, I see you are not yet *unready*,”

Again, in Heywood's *Golden Age*, 1611:

“ Here Jupiter puts out the lights, and makes himself *unready*.”

STEEVENS.

81. Enter a soldier, crying, *a Talbot! a Talbot!*]

And afterwards:

The cry of *Talbot* serves me for a sword.

Here, a popular tradition, exclusive of any chronicle-evidence, was in Shakspeare's mind. Edward Kerke, the old commentator on Spenser's *Pastorals*, first published in 1579, observes in his notes on *June*, that lord Talbot's “ *noblenesse* bred such a terrour in the hearts of the French, that oftimes greate armies were defaited and put to flight, at *the only hearing of his name*: insomuch that the French women, to affray their children, would tell them that the TALBOT *cometh*.” See also the end of Sc. iii. Act. ii. WARTON.

The same is said in Drayton's *Miseries of Queen Margaret*, of Lord Warwick:

“ And still so fearful was great *Warwick's* name,

“ That being once cry'd on, put them oft to flight,

“ On the king's army till at length they light.”

112. — *his trull* ;] I believe *trull* did not anciently bear so harsh an interpretation as at present  
in



In the old black letter interlude of the *Disobedient child* (no date) by Tho. Ingeland, is the following stanza of a song sung by a young man in the presence of the lady to whom he was instantly to be married :

“ This mynion here, this myncing *trull*,  
 “ Doth please me more a thousande folde,  
 “ Than all the earthe that is so full  
 “ Of precious stones, silver, and golde.” &c.  
 “ How like ye this songe, my owne swete Rose ?  
 “ Is it well made for our purpose ?

*Young Woman.*

“ I never heard in all my lyfe a better,  
 “ More pleasaunte, more meete for the matter.”

STEEVENS.

Mr. Reed, on the authority of the author of *The Remarks* says, that in Shakspeare's time, and long before, *trull* signified a *strumpet*, a *harlot*; and adds : “ In the ancient Morality of the Four Elements, a fellow says :

“ For to satisfy your wanton lust,  
 “ I shall appoint you a *trull* of trust,  
 “ Nor a fairer in this town.”

Again, in the old May Game of *Robin Hode* :

“ She is a *trull* of trust, to serve a fryer at his  
 lust.”

187. ———captivate.] So, in *Soliman and Perseda* :

“ If not destroy'd and bound, and *captivate*,  
 “ If *captivate*, then forc'd from holy faith.”

STEEVENS.



190. —so fond] *i. e.* so foolish, STEEVENS.

203. *This is a riddling merchant, &c.]* So, in *Romeo and Juliet*:

“What saucy merchant was this.”

See a note on this passage, act II. sc. iv. STEEVENS.

234. All the editions read :

*Or, else, was wrangling Somerset i' th' error ?]* There is apparently a want of opposition between the two questions. I once read,

*Or else was wrangling Somerset i' th' right ?*

JOHNSON.

Sir T. Hanmer would read ;

*And was not—————*

STEEVENS.

258. *From off this briar pluck a white rose with me.]* This is given as the original of the two badges of the houses of York and Lancaster, whether truly or not, is no great matter, But the proverbial expression of *saying a thing under the rose*, I am persuaded came from thence. When the nation had ranged itself into two great factions, under the *white* and *red* rose, and were perpetually plotting and counterplotting against one another, then, when a matter of faction was communicated by either party to his friend in the same quarrel, it was natural for him to add, that he *said it under the rose* : meaning that, as it concerned the faction, it was religiously to be kept secret.

WARBURTON.

This is ingenious ! What pity, that it is not learned too ?——The rose, (as the fables say) was the symbol



bol of silence, and consecrated by Cupid to Harpocrates, to conceal the lewd pranks of his mother. So common a book as Lloyd's *Dictionary* might have instructed Dr. Warburton in this. "Huic Harpocrati Cupido Veneris filius parentis suæ rosam dedit in munus, ut scilicet si quid licentius dictum, vel actum sit in convivio, sciant tacenda esse omnia. Atque idcirco veteres ad finem convivii *sub rosa*, (Anglicè *under the rose*,) transacta esse omnia ante digressum contestabantur; cujus formae vis eadem esset, atque ista, Μισῶ μνάμονα συμπόταν. Probant hanc rem versus qui reperiuntur in marmore:

"Est rosa flos Veneris, cujus quo furta laterent

"Harpocrati matris dona dicavit amor.

"Inde rosam mensis hospes suspendit amicis,

"Convivæ ut sub ea dicta tacenda sciant."

UPTON.

262. *I love no colours;—*] *Colours* is here used ambiguously for *tints* and *deceits*. JOHNSON.

271. *—well objected;*] Properly thrown in our way, justly proposed. JOHNSON.

So, in Chapman's Version of the 21st Book of Homer's *Odyssey*:

"Excites Penelope t' *object* the prize

"(The bow and bright steeles) to the woer's strength." STEEVENS.

314. *Spring crestless yeomen—*] *i. e.* those who have no right to arms. WARBURTON.

315. *He bears him on the place's privilege,*] The Temple, being a religious house, was an assylum, a place



place of exemption, from violence, revenge, and blood-shed.

JOHNSON.

322. *Corrupted, and exempted——*] *Exempt, for excluded.*

WARBURTON.

331. *——for this apprehension:]* Apprehension, *i. e.* opinion.

WARBURTON.

336. *——this pale and angry rose,  
As cognizance of my blood-drinking hate,]*

So, in *Romeo and Juliet*:

“ Either my eye-sight fails, or thou look’st pale.—

“ And, trust me, love, in mine eye so do you:

“ Dry sorrow drinks our blood.” STEEVENS.

A badge is called a *cognisance* à *cognoscendo*, because by it such persons as do wear it upon their sleeves, their shoulders, or in their hats, are manifestly known whose servants they are. In heraldry the *cognisance* is seated upon the most eminent part of the helmet; and by a designed blunder in Ben Jonson’s works 1765, vol. I. p. 160, and vol. II. p. 356, it is called a *cullisen*, which Mr. Whalley’s Dictionaries, or the heralds he consulted, could not explain. TOLLET.

364. *Enter Mortimer,——*] In the third year of Henry VI. (1425), and during the time that Peter Duke of Coimbra was entertained in London, “ Ed-  
“ monde Mortymer,” says Hall, “ the last erle of  
“ March of that name (which long tyme had bene re-  
“ strayned from his liberty, and finally waxed lame)  
“ disceased wythout yssue, whose inheritance dis-  
“ cended to Lord Richard Plantagenet,” &c.

REMARKS.



365. *Let dying Mortimer here rest himself.*—] I know not whether Milton did not take from this hint the lines with which he opens his tragedy. JOHNSON.

Rather from the beginning of the last scene of the third act of the *Phænissæ* of Euripides:

*Tiresias.* Ἦγ' ἄρα γαίθε δούγαίεσσι, ὡς τυφλῷ ποδὶ  
Ὀφθαλμὸς εἴ σὺ, ναυβάταισιν ἄστρον ὥς  
Δευρ', εἰς τὸ λευρὸν πέδον ἵχνος τιθεῖς' ἐμόν, &c.

STEEVENS.

368. —*pursuivants of death,*] Pursuivants. The heralds that, forerunning death, proclaim its approach.

JOHNSON.

370. *Edmund Mortimer.*] This Edmund Mortimer, when King Richard II. set out upon his fatal Irish expedition, was declared by that prince heir apparent to the crown; for which reason King Henry IV. and V. took care to keep him in prison during their whole reigns.

THEOBALD.

372. —*as drawing to their exigent:*] Exigent, end.

JOHNSON.

So, in *Doctor Dodypoll*, a comedy, 1600:

“Hath driven her to some desperate *exigent*.”

STEEVENS.

374. *And pithless arms,*—] *Pith* was used for marrow, and figuratively, for strength.

JOHNSON.

392. *Just death, kind umpire of mens' miseries,*] *i. e.* he that terminates or concludes misery. The expression is harsh and forced.

JOHNSON.

407. —*I'll tell thee my disease.*] *Disease* seems to be here *uneasiness* or *discontent*.

JOHNSON.



It is so used by other ancient writers, and by Shakspeare elsewhere. Thus likewise in Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, book iii. c. 5.

“ But labour'd long in that deep ford with vain  
disease.”

That to *disease* is to *disturb*, may be known from the following passages in Chapman's version of the *Iliad* and *Odyssy*:

“ But brother, hie thee to the ships, and Idomen  
disease.”

*i. e.* wake him. Book vi. edit. 1598.

Again, *Odyss.* b. vi.

“ ———with which he declin'd

“ The eyes of any waker when he pleas'd,

“ And any sleeper when he wish'd *diseased*.”

Again, in the ancient metrical history of the *Battle of Flodden*:

“ He thought the Scots might him *disease*

“ With constituted captains meet.” STEEVENS.

427. ———his nephew *Richard*;——] Thus the old copy. Modern editors read—his *cousin*—but without necessity. *Nephew* has sometimes the power of the Latin *nepos*, and is used with great laxity among our ancient English writers. Thus in *Othello*, Iago tells Brabantio——he shall “ have his *nephews* (*i. e.* the children of his own daughter) neigh to him.”

STEEVENS.

442. ———in his *haughty great attempt*,] *Haughty* is  
*high*. JOHNSON.

459. *Thou art my heir; the rest, I wish thee gather :*]

The



The sense is, I acknowledge thee to be my *heir*; the consequences which may be collected from thence, I recommend it to thee to draw. REVISAL.

485. *Here dies the dusky torch——*] The image is of a torch just extinguished, and yet smoaking. But we should read *lies* instead of *dies*. For when a dead man is represented by an extinguished torch, we must say the *torch lies*: when an extinguished torch is compared to a dead man, we must say the *torch dies*. The reason is plain, because integrity of metaphor requires that the terms proper to the thing *illustrating*, not the thing *illustrated*, be employed. WARBURTON.

486. *Chok'd with ambition of the meaner sort:——*] We are to understand the speaker as reflecting on the ill fortune of Mortimer, in being always made a tool of by the Percies of the North in their rebellious intrigues; rather than in asserting his claim to the crown, in support of his own princely ambition.

WARBURTON.

492. In the former editions,

*Or make my will th' advantage of my good*] So all the printed copies; but with very little regard to the poet's meaning. I read,

*Or make my ill th' advantage of my good.*

Thus we recover the *antithesis* of the expression.

THEOBALD.



## Æt III.

Line 54. — *ROAM* thither then.] *Roam* to Rome. To *roam* is supposed to be derived from the cant of vagabonds, who often pretended a pilgrimage to Rome.

JOHNSON.

The jingle between *roam* and *Rome* is common to other writers. So, in Nash's *Lenten Stuff*, &c. 1599:

“ ———three hundred thousand people *roamed* to Rome for purgatorie pills,” &c.

STEEVENS.

55. Som. *My lord it were your duty to forbear.*] This line, in the old copy, is joined to the former hemistich spoken by *Warwick*. The modern editors have very properly given it to *Somerset*, for whom it seems to have been meant.

*Ay, see, the bishop be not over-borne,*  
was erroneously given in the next speech to *Somerset*, instead of *Warwick*, to whom it has been since restored.

STEEVENS.

97. — *unaccustom'd fight aside.*] *Unaccustom'd* is *unseemly, indecent.*

JOHNSON.

103. — *an inkhorn mate,*] A bookman. JOHNSON.

136. — *hath a kindly gird.* —] A kindly gird is a gentle or friendly reproof. Falstaff observes, that

“ —men of all sorts take a pride to *gird* at him.”  
and in the *Taming of the Shrew*, Babtista says,

“ —Tranio *hits* you now:”

to which Lucentio answers,

“ I thank



“ I thank thee for that *gird*, good Tranio.”

STEEVENS.

176. ———*reguerdon*———] Recompence, return.

JOHNSON.

200. *So will this base and envious discord breed.] i. e. so will the malignity of this discord propagate itself, and advance.*

JOHNSON.

217. *Our sacks shall be a mean to sack the city,]* Falstaff has the same quibble, shewing his bottle of sack :

“ Here’s that will *sack* a city.” STEEVENS.

220. *Qui va là ?]* The old eopy has—*Che là* ; evidently a corruption of—*Qui est là ?* MALONE.

227. ———*Here enter’d Pucelle, and her practisants:]* *Practice*, in the language of that time, was *treachery*, and perhaps in the softer sense *stratagem*. *Practisants* are therefore *confederates in stratagems*. JOHNSON.

232. *No way to that,——]* *i. e. no way equal to that, no way so fit as that.* JOHNSON.

247. *That hardly we escap’d the pride of France.]* *Pride* signifies the *haughty power*. The same speaker says afterwards, act iv. scene vi.

“ *And from the pride of Gallia rescu’d thee.*

WARBURTON.

248. ———*Alençon, on the walls.——]* Alençon, Sir Thomas Hanmer has replaced here, instead of Reignier, because Alençon, not Reignier, appears in the ensuing scene. JOHNSON.

301. ———*once I read,*

*That stout Pendragon, in his litter, &c.]* This



hero was Uther Pendragon, brother to Aurelius, and father to King Arthur.

Shakspeare has imputed to Pendragon an exploit of Aurelius, who, says Holinshed, “even sicke of a flixe as he was, caused himselfe to be carried forth in a litter: with whose presence his people were so incouraged, that encountering with the Saxons they won the victorie.” *Hist. of Scotland*, p. 99.

Harding, however, in his *Chronicle* (as I learn from Dr. Grey), gives the following account of Uther Pendragon :

“ For which the king ordain’d a horse-litter  
 “ To bear him so then unto Verolame,  
 “ Where Ocea lay, and Oysa also in fear,  
 “ That saint Albone’s now hight of noble fame,  
 “ Bet downe the walles; but to him forth they  
     came,  
 “ Where in battayle Ocea and Oysa were slayn.  
 “ The felde he had, and thereof was full fayne.”

STEEVENS.

318. *Now, quiet soul, depart when heaven shall please;  
     For I have seen——*] So. in St. Luke, 2, 29.

“ Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
 “ for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.” STEEVENS.

332. What, all *a-mort*?——] i. e. *depressed with melancholy*. \* \* \*

369. *But be extirped from our provinces.*] To *extirp* is to root out. So, in Lord Sterline’s *Darius*, 1603:

“ The world shall gather to *extirp* our name.”

STEEVENS.



370. ———expuls'd *from Fance*,] *i. e.* expelled. So, in Ben Jonson's *Sejanus* :

“ The *expuls'd* Apicata finds them there.”

Again, in Drayton's *Muses Elizium* :

“ And if you *expulse* them there,

“ They'll hang upon your braided hair.”

STEEVENS.

392. *As looks the mother on her lowly babe*,] It is plain Shakspeare wrote,——*lovely babe*, it answering to *fertile France* above, which this domestick image is brought to illustrate.

WARBURTON.

The alteration is easy and probable; but perhaps the poet, by *lowly babe*, meant the *babe* lying *low* in death. *Lowly* answers as well to *towns defaced* and *wasting ruin*, as *lovely* to *fertile*.

JOHNSON.

423. ———*these haughty words of hers*

*Have batter'd me like roaring cannon-shot*,] How these lines came hither I know not; there was nothing in the speech of Joan haughty or violent, it was all soft intreaty and mild expostulation.

JOHNSON.

429. *Done like a Frenchman; turn, and turn again!*]

This seems to be an offering of the poet to his royal mistress's resentment, for Henry the Fourth's last great turn in religion, in the year 1593.

WARBURTON.

The inconstancy of the French was always the subject of satire. I have read a dissertation written to prove, that the index of the wind upon our steeples was made in form of a cock, to ridicule the French for their frequent changes.

JOHNSON.

459. *Or been reguerdon'd*——] *i. e.* rewarded. The word



word was obsolete even in the time of Shakspeare. Chaucer uses it in the *Boke of Boethius*. STEEVENS.

465. ———*these colours that I wear*] This was the badge of a *rose*, and not an officer's scarf. So, in *Love's Labour's Lost*: act iii. scene the last,

“And wear his *colours* like a tumbler's hoop.”

TOLLET.

475. *That, who so draws a sword, 'tis present death;*] Shakspeare wrote,

—————*draws a sword i' th' presence 't's death;*  
*i. e.* in the court, or in the presence chamber.

WARBURTON.

This reading cannot be right, because, as Mr. Edwards observed, it cannot be pronounced. It is, however, a good comment, as it shews the author's meaning. JOHNSON.

I believe the line should be written as in the folio:

“*That, who so draws a sword*—————”

*i. e.* (as Dr. Warburton has observed) with a menace in the court, or in the presence chamber

Johnson, in his collection of *Ecclesiastical Laws*, has preserved the following, which was made by Ina, king of the West Saxons, 623. “If any one fights in the king's house, let him forfeit all his estate, and let the king deem whether he shall live or not.” I am told that there are many other ancient canons to the same purpose. Grey. STEEVENS.

Sir William Blackstone observes that, “by the ancient law before the Conquest, *fighting in the king's palace*, or before the king's judges, was *punished with death*.”



“ death. So too in the old Gothic constitution, there  
 “ were many places privileged by law, *quibus major*  
 “ *reverentia et securitas debetur, ut templa et judicia, quæ*  
 “ *sancta habebantur,—arces et aula regis,—Denique locus*  
 “ *quilibet presente aut adventante rege.* And at present  
 “ with us, by the Stat. 33 Hen. VIII. c. 12. mali-  
 “ cious striking in the king’s palace, wherein his royal  
 “ person resides, whereby blood is drawn, is punish-  
 “ able by perpetual imprisonment and fine, at the  
 “ king’s pleasure; and also with loss of the offender’s  
 “ right hand, the solemn execution of which sentence  
 “ is prescribed in the statute at length.” *Commentaries*,  
 vol. iv. p. 124.

ACT IV.

Line 6. — *SUCH as shall pretend*] To pretend is to  
 design, to intend. JOHNSON.

14. *I vow’d base knight, when I did meet thee next,*  
*To tear the garter from thy craven’s leg,]* The  
 last line should run thus,

From thy craven leg: thy mean, dastardly leg.

WHALLEY.

19. — *at the battle of Poitiers—*] The battle  
 of *Poitiers* was fought in the year 1357, the 31st of  
 king Edward III. and the scene now lies in the 7th  
 year of the reign of king Henry VI. viz. 1428. This  
 blunder



blunder may be justly imputed to the players or transcribers; nor can we very well justify ourselves for permitting it to continue so long, as it was too glaring to have escaped an attentive reader. The action, of which Shakspeare is now speaking, happened (according to Holinshed) “neere unto a village in Beausse called *Pataie*,” which we should read instead of *Poictiers*. “From this battell departed without anie stroke stricken, *Sir John Fastolfe*, the same yeere by his valiantnesse elected into the order of the garter. But for doubt of misdealing at this brunt, the Duke of Bedford tooke from him the image of St. George and his garter,” &c. Holinshed, Vol. II. p. 601.

STEEVENS.

35. ———*haughty courage*,] *Haughty* is here in its original sense for *high*. JOHNSON.

54. Pretend *some alteration in good will*?] Thus the old copy. To *pretend* seems to be here used in its Latin sense, *i. e.* to *hold out*, to *stretch forward*. Modern editors read *portend*. STEEVENS.

94. ———*did repugn the truth*,] To *repugn* is to resist. The word is used by Chaucer. STEEVENS.

180. In the former editions,

*And if I wish he did*——] By the pointing re-form'd, and a single letter expung'd, I have restor'd the text to its purity. *And, if I wis, he did*—*Warwick* had said, the king meant no harm in wearing *Somerset's* rose: *York* testily replies,

“Nay, if I know any thing, he did think harm.”

THEOBALD.

I read,



I read, I *wist*. The pret. of the old obsolete verb *I wis*, which is used by Shakspeare in *The Merchant of Venice*:

“ There be fools alive, I *wis*,

“ Silver’d o’er, and so was this.” STEEVENS.

*York* says, he is not pleased that the King should prefer the red rose, the badge of *Somerset*, his enemy; *Warwick* desires him not to be offended at it, as he dares say the King *meant no harm*. To which *York*, yet unsatisfied, hastily adds, in a menancing tone,—*If I thought he did*;—but he instantly checks his threat with—*let it rest*. It is an example of a rhetorical figure, which, our author has elsewhere used. Thus in *Cariolanus*:

“ An ’twere to give again—But ’tis no matter.”

So also Virgil:

“ Quosego—sed motos præstat componere fluctus.”

The author of the *Revisal* understood this passage in the same manner. REMARKS.

199. *Be humbled to us.*] The first folio reads,

*Be humble to us.* MALONE.

222. *To rive their dangerous artillery*] *Rive* their artillery seems to mean charge their artillery so much as to endanger their bursting. So, in *Treilus and Cressida*, Ajax bids the trumpeter blow so loud, as to crack his lungs and *split* his brazen pipe. TOLLET.

227. —*due thee withal*;] To *due* is to *endue*, to *deck*, *grace*. JOHNSON.

The old copy reads,—*dew thee withal*; and perhaps rightly. The *dew of praise* is an expression I have met with



with in other poets: Shakspeare uses the same verb in *Macbeth*:

“To *dew* the sovereign flow’r, and drown the weeds.”

Again, in the second part of *K. Henry VI.*

“——give me thy hand,

“That I may *dew* it with my mournful tears.”

STEEVENS.

235. *He fables not,——*] This expression Milton has borrowed in his *Masque at Ludlow Castle*:

“She *fables not*, I feel that I do fear.”

It occurs again in the *Pinner of Wakefield*, 1599:

“——good father *fable not* with him.”

STEEVENS.

241. ——*be then in blood*:] Be in high spirits, be of true mettle.

JOHNSON.

242. *Not rascal-like,——*] A rascal deer is the term of chase for lean poor deer.

JOHNSON.

244. ——*with heads of steel*,] Continuing the image of the *deer*, he supposes the lances to be their horns.

JOHNSON.

247. ——*dear deer of us,——*] The same quibble occurs in *K. Henry IV.* part i.

“Death hath not struck so fat a *deer* to-day,

“Though many a *deer*er.”

STEEVENS.

262. *And am I lowted——*] To *lout*, in Chaucer, signifies to *submit*. To *submit* is to *let down*. So, Dryden:

“Sometimes the hill *submits* itself a while

“In small descents,” &c.

STEEVENS.

A *lowt*



A *lowt* is a country fellow, a clown. He means that Somerset treats him like a hind. REMARKS.

296. ———*the vulture*———] Alluding to the tale of Prometheus. JOHNSON.

316. *ring'd about*———] Environed, encircled.

JOHNSON.

321. ———*in advantage ling'ring*,] Protracting his resistance by the advantage of a strong post.

JOHNSON.

323. ———*worthless emulation*.] In this line *emulation* signifies merely *rivalry*, not struggle for superior excellence.

JOHNSON.

355. ———*a feast of death*,] To a field where *death* will be *feasted* with slaughter.

JOHNSON.

365. ———*noble Talbot stood*.] For what reason this scene is written in rhyme I cannot guess. If Shakspeare had not in other plays mingled his rhymes and blank verses in the same manner, I should have suspected that this dialogue had been a part of some other poem which was never finished, and that being loath to throw his labour away, he inserted it here.

JOHNSON.

370. ———*your regard*———] Your care of your own safety.

JOHNSON.

457. *And like me to the peasant boys of France*;] To *like one to the peasants* is, to *compare*, to *level by comparison*; the line is therefore intelligible enough by itself, but in this sense it wants connection. Sir T. Hanmer reads, *And leave me*, which makes a clear sense and just consequence. But as change is not to



be allowed without necessity, I have suffered *like* to stand, because I suppose the author meant the same as *make like*, or *reduce to a level with*. JOHNSON.

463. *Triumphant death smear'd with captivity!*] That is, death stained and dishonoured with captivity. JOHNSON.

470. *Tendering my ruin,———*] Watching me with tenderness in my fall. JOHNSON.

I would rather read,—*Tending my ruin*, &c.

TYRWHITT.

I adhere to the old reading. So, in *Hamlet*, Polonius says to Ophelia :

“———*Tender yourself more dearly.*”

STEEVENS.

Again, in *K. Henry VI.* p. ii.

“ I *tender* so the safety of my liege.” MALONE.

478. *Thou antic death,———*] The *fool*, or *antic* of the play, made sport by mocking the graver personages. JOHNSON.

481. ——winged through the *lither* sky,] *Lither* is *flexible* or *yielding*. In much the same sense Milton says :

“ ——He with broad sails

“ Winnow'd the *buxom* air.”

That is, the obsequious air.

JOHNSON.

*Lither* is the comparative of the adjective *lithe*.

So, in Lyly's *Endymion*, 1591 :

“ ——to breed numbness or *litherness*,”

*Litherness* is *limberness* or *yielding weakness*.

Again, in *Look about You*, 1600 :



“ I’ll bring his *lither* legs in better frame.”

Milton might have borrowed the expression from Spenser, or Gower, who uses it in the Prologue to his *Confessio Amantis* :

“ That unto him whiche the head is,

“ The membres *buxom* shall bowe.”

In the old service of matrimony the wife was enjoined to be *buxom* both at bed and board. *Buxom* therefore anciently signified obedient or yielding. Stubbs, in his *Anatomie of Abuses*, 1595, uses the word in the same sense :

“ —are so *buxome* to their shameless desires,”

&c.

STEEVENS.

## ACT V.

Line 3. — *WHELP* of Talbot’s, raging brood,]  
Thus the modern editions. I have restored the old reading. *Raging-wood* signifies *raging mad*.

STEEVENS.

4. — *in Frenchmen’s blood!*] The return of rhyme where young Talbot is again mentioned, and in no other place, strengthens the suspicion that these verses were originally part of some other work, and were copied here only to save the trouble of composing new.

JOHNSON.



9. ———of a giglot wench:] *Giglot* is a wanton, or a strumpet. JOHNSON.

The word is used by Gascoigne and other authors, though now quite obsolete.

So, in the play of *Orlando Furioso*, 1599 :

“ Whose choice is like that Greekish *giglot's* love,

“ That left her lord, prince Menelaus.”

STEEVENS.

10. ———in the bowels of the French,] So, in the first part of *Jeronimo*, 1605 :

“ Meet, Don Andrea! yes, in the *battle's bowels*.”

STEEVENS.

19. ———Conduct me to the Dauphin's tent ; to know. Who hath obtain'd——] Lucy's message implied that he knew who had obtained the victory : therefore Sir T. Hanmer reads :

*Herald, conduct me to the Dauphin's tent.* JOHNSON.

41. *The Turk, &c.*] Alluding probably to the ostentatious letter of *Sultan Solyman the Magnificent*, to the emperor Ferdinand, 1592 ; in which all the *Grand Signior's* titles are enumerated. See Knolles's *Hist. of the Turks*, 5th edit. p. 789. GREY.

78. ———immanity——] *i. e.* barbarity, savageness. STEEVENS.

93. *What ! is my lord of Winchester install'd, And call'd unto a cardinal's degree !*] This, (as Mr. Edwards has observed in his MS. notes) argues a great forgetfulness in the poet. In the first act Gloster says :

*I'll*



*I'll canvass thee in thy broad cardinal's hat ;*  
and it is strange that the duke of Exeter should not  
know of his advancement. STEEVENS.

124. *That, nor in birth,—*] I would read, *for birth*.  
That is, thou shalt not rule me, though thy birth is  
legitimate, and thy authority supreme. JOHNSON.

The old copy reads, *neither*. STEEVENS.

150. —*ye charming spells and periapts ;*] Charms  
sow'd up. Ezek. xiii. 18. *Woe to them that sow pillows*  
*to all arm-holes, to hunt souls.* POPE.

*Periapts* were worn about the neck as preservatives  
from disease or danger. Of these, the first chapter  
of St. John's Gospel was deemed the most efficacious.

Whoever is desirous to know more about them,  
may consult Reginald Scott's *Discovery of Witchcraft*,  
1584, p. 230, &c. STEEVENS.

The following story which is related in *Wits, Fits,*  
*and Fancies*, 1595, proves what Mr. Steevens has as-  
serted: "A cardinal seeing a priest carrying a cudgel  
under his gown, reprimanded him ; his excuse was,  
that he only carried it to defend himself against the  
dogs of the town. Wherefore, I pray you, replied  
the cardinal, serves *St. John's Gospel* ? Alas, my lord,  
said the priest, these curs understand no Latin."

MALONE.

154. —*monarch of the north.*] The north was  
always supposed to be the particular habitation of bad  
spirits. Milton therefore assembles the rebel angels  
in the north. JOHNSON.

The boast of Lucifer in the xivth chapter of Isaiah



is said to be, that he *will sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.* STEEVENS.

159. *Out of the powerful regions under earth,]* I believe Shakspeare wrote *legions.* WARBURTON.

190. *——fell, banning hag!]* To *ban* is to curse. So, in the *Jew of Malta*, 1633 :

“ I *ban* their souls to everlasting pains.”

STEEVENS.

210. *As plays the sun upon the glassy streams, &c.]* This comparison, made between things which seem sufficiently unlike, is intended to express the softness and delicacy of lady Margaret's beauty, which delighted, but did not dazzle : which was bright, but gave no pain by its lustre. JOHNSON.

Thus, Tasso :

“ Qual raggio in onda, le scintilla unriso

“ Negli umidi occhi tremulo——.”

HENLEY.

215. *——disable not thyself;]* Do not represent thyself so weak. To *disable* the judgment of another was, in that age, the same as to destroy its credit or authority. JOHNSON.

So, in *As You Like It*, act V. ——“ If again, it was not well cut, he *disabled my judgment.*” STEEVENS.

232. *——a cooling card.]* So, in *Marius and Sylla*, 1594 :

“ I'll have a present *cooling card* for you.”

237. *——a wooden thing.]* Is an *aukward business*, an *undertaking not likely to succeed.*

So, in Lylly's *Galathea*, 1592 : “ Would I were out of



of these woods, for I shall have but *wooden* luck."

Again, in his *Maid's Metamorphosis*, 1600 :

" My master takes but *wooden* pains."

Again, in the *Knave of Spades*, &c. no date,

" To make an end of that same *wooden* phrase."

STEEVENS.

304. *Since thou dost deign to woo her little worth,  
To be the princely bride of such a lord ;]* To

*woo her little worth*—may mean—to court her small share of merit. But I would rather point the passage thus :

Since thou dost deign to woo her, little worth

To be the princely bride of such a lord.

i. e, little deserving to be the wife of such a prince.

MALONE.

339. *To send such peevish tokens——]* *Peevish*,  
for childish.

WARBURTON.

See a note on *Cymbeline*, act I. sc. vii: "He's strange and *peevish*."

STEEVENS.

345. *Mad, natural graces——]* So, the old copy. The modern editors have been content to read *her* natural graces. By the word *mad*, however, I believe the poet only meant *wild*, or uncultivated. In the former of these significations he appears to have used it in *Othello*——*he she lov'd prov'd mad*. Which Dr. Johnson has properly interpreted, We call a wild girl, to this day, a *mad-cap*.

*Mad*, in some of the ancient books of gardening, is used as an epithet to plants which grow rampant and wild.

STEEVENS.

Pope had, perhaps, this line in his thoughts when he wrote,

" And



“ And snatch a grace beyond the reach of art.”  
In *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, by Beaumont and Fletcher,  
*mad* is used in the same manner as in the text ;

“ Is it not *mad* lodging in these wild woods here ?”

MALONE.

353. ———timeless———] is *untimely*. So, in Drayton's *Legend of Robert Duke of Normandy* :

“ Thy strength was buried in his *timeless* death.”

STEEVENS.

355. *Decrepit miser* !] *Miser* has no relation to avarice in this passage, but simply means a miserable creature. So, in the *Interlude of Jacob and Esau*, 1568 :

“ But as for these *misers* within my father's tent.”

Again, in Lord Sterline's tragedy of *Cræsus*, 1604 :

“ Or think'st thou me of judgment too remiss,

“ A *miser* that in miserie remains,

“ The bastard child of fortune, barr'd from  
bliss,

“ Whom heav'n doth hate, and all the world  
disdains ?”

Again, in Holinshed, p. 760, where he is speaking of the death of Richard III. “ And so this *miser*, at the same verie point, had like chance and fortune, &c.”

Again, p. 951, among the last words of lord Cromwell : “ ———for if I should so doo, I were a very wretch and a *miser*.” Again, *ibid*. “ ———and so patiently suffered the stroke of the ax, by a ragged and butcherlie *miser*, which ill-favourdlie performed the office.”

STEEVENS.

365. ———that thou wilt be so obstacle !] A vulgar corruption



corruption of *obstinate*, which I think has oddly lasted since our author's time till now. JOHNSON.

The same corruption may be met with in other writers. Thus, in Chapman's *May-day*, 1611:

“ An *obstacle* young thing it is.”

Again, in *The Tragedy of Hoffman*, 1631:

“ Be not *obstacle*, old duke.” STEEVENS.

370. ———my noble birth.

———’Tis true I gave a noble——] This

passage seems to corroborate an explanation, somewhat far-fetched, which I have given in *Henry IV.* of the *nobleman* and *Royal man*. JOHNSON.

397. No, *misconceived*!——] i. e. No, ye *misconceivers*, ye who mistake me and my qualities. STEEVENS.

422. ———*Alençon*! that notorious *Machiavel*!] *Machiavel* being mentioned somewhat before his time, this line is by some of the editors given to the players, and ejected from the text. JOHNSON.

The character of *Machiavel* seems to have made so very deep an impression on the dramatick writers of this age, that he is many times as prematurely spoken of. So, in the *Valiant Welchman*, 1615, one of the characters bids *Caradoc*, i. e. *Caractacus*,

“ ———read *Machiavel*:

“ Princes that would aspire, must mock at hell.”

Again:

“ ———my brain

“ Italianates my barren faculties

“ To *Machiavelian* blackness——” STEEVENS.

437. ———darkness and the gloomy shade of death——]

The



The expression is scriptural : “ Whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit *in darkness and the shadow of death.*”

MALONE.

438. ——— *till mischief and despair*

*Drive you to break your necks,—*] Perhaps Shakspeare intended to remark, in this execration, the frequency of suicide among the English, which has been commonly imputed to the gloominess of their air.

JOHNSON.

469. ——— *poison'd voice,*] *Poison'd voice* agrees well enough with *baneful enemies*, or with *baleful*, if it can be used in the same sense.

JOHNSON.

470. ——— *baleful enemies.*] *Baleful* is *sorrowful* ; I therefore rather imagine that we should read *baneful*, *hurtful* or *mischievous*.

JOHNSON.

*Baleful* had anciently the same meaning as *baneful*. It is an epithet very frequently bestow'd on poisonous plants and reptiles. So, in *Romeo and Juliet* :

“ With *baleful* weeds, and precious juiced flowers.”

STEEVENS.

482. ——— *with a coronet ;*] *Coronet* is here used for a crown.

JOHNSON.

498. ——— *upon comparison ?*] Do you stand to compare your present state, a state which you have neither right or power to maintain, with the terms which we offer ?

JOHNSON.

500. ——— *accept the little thou usurp'st,*

*Of benefit*————] *Benefit* is here a term of law. Be content to live as the *beneficiary* of our king.

JOHNSON



530. *So am I driven,——*] The simile is somewhat obscure : he seems to mean, that as a ship is driven against the tide by the wind, so he is driven by love against the current of his interest.

JOHNSON.

554. *——at a triumph——*] That is, at the sports by which a triumph is celebrated.

JOHNSON.

579. *——by attorneyship ;*] By the intervention of another man's choice ; or the discretionary agency of another.

JOHNSON.

583. *It most of all these reasons bindeth us,*] The word *it* is not in the old copy.

MALONE.

587. *Whereas the contrary bringeth forth bliss.*] The word *forth*, which is not in the first folio, was supplied I think unnecessarily, by the second. *Contrary* was, I believe, used by the author as a quadrasyllable, as if it were written *conterary* ; according to which pronunciation the meter is not defective :

*Whereas the conterary bringeth bliss——*

In the same manner Shakspeare frequently uses *Henry* as a trisyllable, and *hour* and *fire* as dissyllables.

MALONE.

609. *As I am sick with working of my thoughts.*] So, in *King Henry V.*

“ *Work, work your thoughts, and therein see a siege.*”

The recurrence of the same expression in the plays indisputably written by Shakspeare, and in these *three parts of K. Henry VI.* is an additional proof that the latter were composed by him.

MALONE.



620. *If you do censure me, &c.]* To censure is here simply to judge. *If in judging me you consider the past frailties of your own youth.* JOHNSON.

624. *—ruminare my grief.]* Grief, in the first line, is taken generally for *pain* or *uneasiness*; in the second, specially for *sorrow*. JOHNSON.





2  
ANNOTATIONS

BY

SAM. JOHNSON & GEO. STEEVENS,

AND

THE VARIOUS COMMENTATORS,

UPON

KING HENRY VI.

PART II.

WRITTEN BY

WILL. SHAKSPERE.

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—SIC ITUR AD ASTRA.

VIRG.

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M DCC LXXXVII.



NOTATIONS

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ANNOTATIONS  
UPON  
KING HENRY VI.  
PART II.

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*SECOND PART, &c.*] This and the third part were first written under the title of *The Contention of York and Lancaster*, printed in 1600, but since vastly improved by the author. POPE.

It appears from the books of the Stationers' Company, that this play, &c. was entered by Tho. Millington, March 12, 1593. It was altered by *Crowne*, and acted in the year 1681. STEEVENS.

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ACT I.

---

*Line 1. AS by your high, &c.*] Vide *Hall's Chronicle*, fol. 66, year 23, init. POPE.

It is apparent that this play begins where the former

A ij



mer ends, and continues the series of transactions of which it presupposes the First Part already known. This is a sufficient proof that the Second and Third Parts were not written without dependance on the First, though they were printed as containing a complete period of history. JOHNSON.

3. *As procurator to your excellence, &c.*] So, in Holinshed, p. 625. “The marquesse of Suffolk, as procurator to king Henrie, espoused the said ladie in the church of Saint Martins. At the which marriage were present the father and mother of the bride; the French king himself that was uncle to the husband, and the French queen also that was aunt to the wife. There were also the dukes of Orleance, of Calabre, of Alanson, and of Britaine, seaven earles, twelve barons, twenty bishops,” &c. STEEVENS.

25. *The mutual conference—*] I am the bolder to address you, having already familiarized you to my imagination. JOHNSON.

28. *—alder-liefest—*] Is a corruption of the German word *alder-liebste*, beloved above all things.

The word is used by Chaucer; and is put by Marston into the mouth of his Dutch courtezan :

“O mine *alder liefest* love.”

Again,

“*—pretty sweetheart of mine alder-liefest affection.*”

Again, in Gascoigne :

“*—and to mine alder-lievest lord I must indite.*”

STEEVENS.

104. *This peroration with such circumstance ?*] This speech



speech crowded with so many instances of aggravation.

JOHNSON.

143. — *Bickerings*.] To *bicker* is to *shirmish*. In the ancient metrical romance of *Guy E. of Warwick*, bl. 1. no date, the heroes consult whether they should *bicker* on the walls, or descend to battle on the plain. Again, in the genuine ballad of *Chevy Chace*,

“ Bomen *bickarte* upon the bent,

“ With their browd aras cleare.”

Again, in Drayton's *Polyolbion*, Song IX.

“ From *bickering* with his folk to keep us Britains  
back.”

Again, in the *Spanish Masquerado*, by Greene, 1589:

“ — sundry times *bickered* with our men, and gave  
them the foyle.” Again, in Holinshed, p. 537:

“ At another *bickering* also it chanced that the Eng-  
lishmen had the upper hand.” Again, p. 572: “ At  
first there was a sharp *bickering* betwixt them, but  
in the end victorie remained with the Englishmen.”

*Levi pugna congregior*, is the expression by which Bar-  
rett in his *Alvearie*, or *Quadruple Dict.* 1580, explains  
the verb to *bicker*.

STEEVENS.

215. — on a tickle point, — ] *Ticlke* is very  
frequently used for *ticklish* by poets contemporary with  
Shakspeare. So Heywood, in his *Epigrams on Proverbs*,  
1562:

“ Time is *tickell*, we may matche time in this,

“ For we be even as *tickell* as time is.”

Again, in the *Spanish Tragedy*, 1605:

“ Now stands our fortune on a *tickle* point.”



Again, in *Soliman and Perseda*, 1599 :

“ The rest by turning of my *tickle* wheel.”

STEEVENS.

234. ———*the prince's heart of Calydon.*] Meleager.

STEEVENS.

316. Whereas *the king and queen do mean to hawk.*] *Whereas* is the same as *where* ; and seems to be brought into use only on account of its being a dissyllable. So, in *Marius and Sylla*, 1594 :

“ But see *whereas* Lucretius is return'd.

“ Welcome, brave Roman !”

The word is several times used in this piece, as well as in some others ; and always with the same sense.

Again, in the 51st sonnet of Lord *Sterline*, 1604 :

“ I dream'd the nymph, that o'er my fancy reigns,

“ Came to a part *whereas* I paus'd alone.”

Again, in the *Tryal of Treasure*, 1567 :

“ *Whereas* she is resident, I must needs be.”

Again, in Daniel's *Tragedy of Cleopatra*, 1599 :

“ That I should pass *whereas* Octavia stands,

“ To view my misery,” &c. STEEVENS.

340. Elean. *It is enough, &c.*] This speech stands thus in the old quarto :

“ Elean. Thanks, good sir John,

“ Some two days hence I guess will fit our time ;

“ Then see that they be here.

“ For now the king is riding to St. Alban's,

“ And all the dukes and earls along with him.

“ When



“ When they be gone, then safely may they  
come,

“ And on the backside of mine orchard here

“ There cast their spells in silence of the night,

“ And so resolve us of the thing we wish :——

“ Till when, drink that for my sake, and fare-  
well.” STEEVENS.

358. —— *A crafty knave does need no broker ;*] This  
is a proverbial sentence. See Ray's *Collection*.

STEEVENS.

365. *Sort how it will,*——] Let the issue be what  
it will. JOHNSON.

368. —— *in the quill.*] This may mean, with  
great exactness and observance of form, or with the  
utmost punctilio of ceremony. The phrase seems to  
be taken from part of the dress of our ancestors,  
whose ruffs were *quilled*. While these were worn, it  
might be the vogue to say, such a thing is in the *quill*,  
*i. e.* in the reigning mode of taste. TOLLET.

To this observation I may add, that after printing  
began, the similar phrase of a thing being *in print* was  
used to express the same circumstance of exactness.

“ All this,” (declares one of the quibbling servants  
in the *Two Gentlemen of Verona*) “ I saw *in print*, for in  
print I found it.” STEEVENS.

*Deliver our supplications in quill.*] This may be sup-  
posed to have been a phrase formerly in use, and the  
same with the French *en quille*, which is said of a man,  
when he stands upright upon his feet without stirring  
from the place. The proper sense of *quille* in the  
French



French is a nine-pin ; and, in some parts of England, nine-pins are still called *cayls* ; which word is used in the statute 33 *Hen. VIII. c. ix.* *Quelle* in the old British language also signifies any piece of wood set upright.

HAWKINS.

395. *That my mistress was?—*] Rather, that my master was?

TYRWHITT.

452. *—lim'd a bush for her ;*] So, in *Arden of Feversham*, 1592 :

“ *Lime your twigs to catch this weary bird.*”

Again, in the *Tragedy of Mariam*, 1613 :

“ *A crimson bush that ever limes the soul.*”

STEEVENS.

461. *—this late complaint*] That is, The complaint of Peter the armourer's man against his master, for saying that York was the rightful king.

JOHNSON.

468. *—be deny'd—*] The folio reads *denay'd*. I have noted the variation only to observe, that the one word is frequently used for the other among the old writers.

STEEVENS.

481. *—his censure:—*] Through all these plays *censure* is used in an indifferent sense, simply for judgment or opinion.

JOHNSON.

506. *I'd set my ten commandments in your face.*] So, in *Westward Hoe*, 1607 :

“ *—your harpy has set his ten commandments on my back.*”

Again, in *Selimus Emperor of the Turks*, 1638 :

“ I



“ I would set a tap abroach, and not live in fear of my wife’s *ten commandments*. ”

Again, in *The Play of the Four P’s*, 1569 :

“ Now ten times I beseech him that hie sits,

“ Thy wives x *com.* may serche thy five wits. ”

STEEVENS.

511. *Exit Eleanor.*] The quarto adds, after the exit of Eleanor, the following :

“ *King.* Believe me, love, that thou wert much to blame.

“ I would not for a thousand pound in gold,

“ My noble uncle had been here in place.

“ See, where he comes ! I am glad he met her not. ”

STEEVENS.

554. *By these ten bones, &c.*] We have just heard a dutchess threaten to set her *ten commandments* in the face of a queen. The jests in this play turn rather too much on the enumeration of fingers.

This adjuration is, however, very ancient. So, in the mystery of *Candlemas-Day*, 1512 :

“ But by their *bonys ten*, thei be to you untrue. ”

It occurs likewise more than once in the morality of *Hyske Scorne*. Again, in *Monfieur Thomas*, 1637 :

“ By these *ten bones*, sir, by these eyes and tears. ”

Again, in *The longer thou livest the more Fool thou art*, 1570 :

“ By these *tenne bones* I will, I have sworne. ”

STEEVENS.

577. K. Henry. *Then be it so, &c.*] These two lines I have inserted from the old quarto ; and, as I think,



think, very necessarily. For, without them, the king has not declared his assent to Gloster's opinion : and the duke of Somerset is made to thank him for the regency before the king has deputed him to it.

THEOBALD.

After the lines inserted by Theobald, the king continues his speech thus :

———over the French ;

And to defend our right 'gainst foreign foes,

And so do good unto the realm of France.

Make haste, my lord ; 'tis time that you were gone :

The time of truce, I think, is full expir'd.

*Som.* I humbly thank your royal majesty,

And take my leave, to post with speed to France.

[*Exit Somerset.*]

*King.* Come, uncle Gloster ; now let's have our horse,

For we will to St. Albans presently.

Madam, your hawk they say is swift of flight,

And we will try how she will fly to-day.

[*Exeunt omnes.*]

STEEVENS.

582. ———a man——] The words are not in the undated quarto. The first folio reads—"the spight of man." The second—"the spight of my man."

MALONE.

589. *Enter, &c.*] The quarto reads :

*Enter Eleanor, Sir John Hum, Roger Bolingbrook a conjurer, and Margery Jourdain a witch.*

*Eleanor.* Here, sir John, take this scroll of paper here,

Wherein



Wherein is writ the questions you shall ask :  
 And I will stand upon this tower here,  
 And hear the spirit what it says to you ;  
 And to my questions write the answers down.

[*She goes up to the tower.*

STEEVENS.

604. *Deep night, dark night, the silent of the night.*] *Silent*, though an adjective, is used by Shakspeare as a substantive. So, in *The Tempest*, the *vast* of night is used for the greatest part of it. The old quarto reads, *the silence of the night*. The variation between the copies is worth notice.

*Bolingbroke makes a circle.*

*Bol.* Dark night, dread night, the *silence* of the  
 night,

Wherein the furies mask in hellish troops,  
 Send up, I charge you, from Cocytus' lake  
 The spirit Ascalon to come to me ;  
 To pierce the bowels of this central earth,  
 And hither come in twinkling of an eye !  
 Ascalon, ascend ! ascend !

In a speech already quoted from the quarto, Eleanor says, They have

—— cast their spells in *silence of the night*.

And in the ancient *Interlude of Nature*, bl. l. no date, is the same expression :

“ Who taught the nyghtyngall to recorde besyly

“ Her strange entunes in *sylence of the nyght* ?”

Again, in the *Faithful Shepherdess* of Beaumont and Fletcher :



“ Through still *silence of the night*,  
 “ Guided by the glow-worm’s light.”

STEEVENS.

606. —ban-dogs *howl*,] The etymology of the word *ban-dogs* is unsettled. They seem, however, to have been designed by poets to signify some terrifick beings whose office it was *to make night hideous*, like those mentioned in the first book and eighth satire of *Horace* :

“ ———serpentes, atque videres

“ *Infernas errare canes.*”

STEEVENS.

616. —that *I had said and done!*] It was anciently believed that spirits, who were raised by incantations, remain’d above ground, and answer’d questions with reluctance. See both *Lucan* and *Statius*. STEEVENS.

625. *Than where castles mounted stand.*] I remember to have read this prophecy in some of our old chronicles, where, I think, it ran thus :

“ Safer shall he be on sand,

“ *Than where castles mounted stand.*”

At present I do not recollect where. STEEVENS.

628. *False fiend, avoid!*] Instead of this short speech at the dismissal of the spirit, the old quarto gives us the following :

“ Then down, I say, unto the damned pool

“ Where Pluto in his fiery waggon sits,

“ Riding amidst the sing’d and parched smoaks,

“ The road of *Dytas*, by the river *Styx* ;

“ There howle and burn for ever in those  
 flames :——

“ Zounds ! we are betray’d !”

*Dytas*



*Dytas* is written by mistake for *Ditis*, the genitive case of *Dis*, which is used instead of the nominative by more than one ancient author.

So, in Thomas Drant's Translation of the fifth Satire of *Horace*, 1567:

“ And by that meanes made manye soules lord  
*Ditis* hall to seeke.” STEEVENS.

643. *Lord Buckingham, methinks, &c.*] This repetition of the prophecies, which is altogether unnecessary, after what the spectators had heard in the scene immediately preceding, is not to be found in the first edition of this play. POPE.

658. *These oracles are hardly attain'd,*  
*And hardly understood.*] Not only the lameness of the versification, but the imperfection of the sense too, made me suspect this passage to be corrupt. York, seizing the parties and their papers, says, he'll see the devil's writ; and finding the wizard's answers intricate and ambiguous, he makes this general comment upon such sort of intelligence, as I have restored the text:

*Those oracles are hardily attain'd,*  
*And hardly understood.*

*i. e.* a great risque and hazard is run to obtain them and yet, after these *hardy* steps taken, the informations are so perplexed that they are *hardly* to be understood.

THEOBALD.



## A C T II.

*Line 1.* — *FOR flying at the brook,*] The falconer's term for hawking at water-fowl. JOHNSON.

3. ——— *the wind was very high ;*

*And, ten to one, old Joan had not gone out.*] I am told by a gentleman, better acquainted with falconry than myself, that the meaning, however expressed, is, that the wind being high, it was ten to one that the old hawk had flown quite away ; a trick which hawks often play their masters in windy weather. JOHNSON.

——— *old Joan had not gone out,* i. e. the wind was so high it was ten to one that old Joan would not have taken her flight at the game. PERCY.

The ancient books of hawking do not enable me to decide on the merits of such discordant explanations. It may yet be remarked, that the terms belonging to this once popular amusement were in general settled with the utmost precision ; and I may at least venture to declare, that a mistress might have been kept at a cheaper rate than a falcon. To compound a medicine to cure one of these birds of worms, it was necessary to destroy no fewer animals than a *lamb*, a *culver*, a *pigeon*, a *buck*, and a *cat*. I have this intelligence from the *Booke of Hawkinge*, &c. bl. l. no date. This work



work was written by dame Julyana Bernes, prioress of the nunnery of Sopwell, near St. Alban's, (where Shakspeare has fixed the present scene), and was first *prynted at Westmestre by Wynken de Worde*, 1496.

STEEVENS.

11. ———to be aloft,] Perhaps alluding to the adage:

“High-flying hawks are fit for princes.”

See Ray's *Collection*.

STEEVENS.

20. *Beat*, &c.] To *bait* or *beat* (*bathe*) is a term in falconry.

JOHNSON.

To *bathe*, and to *beat*, or *bate*, are distinct terms in this diversion. To *bathe* a hawk was to wash his plumage. To *beat*, or *bate*, was to flutter with his wings. To *beat on a crown* is equivalent to an expression which is still used—to *hammer*, *i. e.* to work in the mind. Shakspeare employs it in another play:

“Wilt thou still be *hammering* treachery?”

So, in Lyly's *Maid's Metamorphosis*, 1600:

“With him whose restless thoughts do *beat* on thee.”

Again, in Doctor *Dodypoll*, 1600:

“Since my mind *beats on it* mightily.”

Again, in *Herod and Antipater*, 1622:

“I feel within my cogitations *beating*.”

STEEVENS.

To *beat* or *bate*, expresses that hovering flutter of a hawk, immediately before it pounces its prey.

HENLEY.

48. ———Come with thy two-hand sword.

Glo. True, uncle,

B ij

Are



*Are ye advis'd—the east side of the grove.*

*Cardinal, I am with you.*] Thus is the whole speech placed to Gloster, in all the editions : but, surely, with great inadvertency. It is the cardinal who first appoints the east side of the grove : and how finely does it express rancour and impetuosity, for fear Gloster should mistake, to repeat the appointment, and ask his antagonist if he takes him right.

THEOBALD.

The *two-handed sword* is mentioned by Holinshed, p. 833 : “—And he that touched the tawnie shield should cast a spear on foot with a target on his arme, and after to fight with a *two-hand sword*.” STEEVENS.

55. ———*my fence shall fail.*] *Fence* is the art of defence. So, in *Much Ado about Nothing* :

“Despight his nice *fence*, and his active practice.” STEEVENS.

94. ———*who said,—Saunder, &c.*] The former copies :

———*who said, Simon, come :*

*Come offer at my shrine, and I will help thee.*

Why *Simon* ? The chronicles that take notice of Gloster's detecting this pretended miracle, tell us, that the impostor, who asserted himself to be cured of blindness, was called *Saunder Simpcox*—*Simon* was therefore a corruption.

THEOBALD.

It would seem better to read *Simpcox* ; for which *Sim.* has in all probability been put by contraction in the player's MS.

REMARKS.



171. ———*lewdly bent*,] *Lewdly*, in this place, and in some others, does not signify *wantonly*, but *wickedly*.

STEEVENS.

183. *Your Lady is forth-coming*——] That is, Your lady is in custody.

JOHNSON.

248. *This Edmund, &c.*] In act II. scene 5, of the last play, *York*, to whom this is spoken, is present at the death of Edmund Mortimer in prison; and the reader will recollect him to have been married to Owen Glendower's daughter, in the *First part of King Henry IV.*

REMARKS.

313. *Sorrow would solace, and mine age would ease.*] That is, Sorrow would have; sorrow requires solace, and age requires ease.

JOHNSON.

322. *God and King Henry govern England's realm:*] The word *realm* at the end of two lines together is displeasing; and when it is considered that much of the scene is written in rhyme, it will not appear improbable that the author wrote, *govern England's helm.*

JOHNSON.

So, in a preceding scene of this play:

“ And you yourself shall steer the happy *helm*.”

STEEVENS.

335. *This staff of honour raught*——] *Raught* is the ancient preterite of the verb *reach*.

STEEVENS.

339. *Lords, let him go.*——] *i. e.* Let him pass out of your thoughts. Duke Humphrey had already left the stage.

STEEVENS.

343. ———*worse-bested*,] In a worse plight.

JOHNSON.



350. ————*with a sand-bag fastened to it :*] As, according to the old laws of duels, knights were to fight with the lance and sword ; so those of inferior rank fought with an ebon staff or battoon, to the farther end of which was fixed a bag cramm'd hard with sand. To this custom Hudibras has alluded in these humorous lines :

“ Engag'd with money-bags, as bold

“ As men with *sand-bags* did of old.”

WARBURTON.

Mr. Sympson, in his notes on Ben Jonson, observes, that a passage in St. Chrysostom very clearly proves the great antiquity of this practice. STEEVENS.

354. ————*a cup of charneco.*] This was the name for a sort of sweet wine, as appears from a passage in a pamphlet intitled, *The Discovery of a London Monster, called the Black Dog of Newgate*, printed 1612 : “ Some drinking the neat wine of Orleance, some the Gascony, some the Bourdeaux. There wanted neither sherry, sack, nor *charneco*, maligo, nor amber-colour'd cando, nor liquorish ipocras, brown beloved bastard, fat aligant, or any quick spirited liquor.”

WARBURTON.

In a pamphlet entitled, *Wit's Miserie, or the World's Madness*, printed in 1596, it is said, that “ the only medicine for the flegm is three cups of *charneco* fasting.”

In Beaumont and Fletcher's *Wit without Money* :

“ Where no old *charneco* is, nor no anchovies.”

Again, in Decker's *Honest Whore*, 1630, 2d Part :

“ Imprimis,



“ Imprimis, a pottle of Greek wine, a pottle of Peter sameene, a pottle of *charneco*, and a pottle of Ziattica.”

Again, in the *Fair Maid of the West*, 1615:

“ Aragoosa, or Peter-see-me, canary, or *char-neco*.”

STEEVENS.

383. —as *Bevis of Southampton fell upon Ascapart*.] I have added this from the old quarto.

WARBURTON.

*Ascapart*,—the giant of the story—a name familiar to our ancestors, is mentioned by Dr. Donne:

“ Those *Ascaparts*, men big enough to throw

“ Charing-cross for a bar,” &c. JOHNSON.

The figure of these combatants are still preserved on the gates of Southampton.

STEEVENS.

385. —*this knave's tongue begins to double*.] So, in Holinshed, whose narrative Shakspeare has deserted, by making the armourer confess treason.

“ —When he should have come to the field fresh and fasting, his neighbours came to him, and gave him wine and strong drink in such excessive sort, that he was therewith distempered, and reeled as he went; and so was slain without guilt: as for the false servant, he lived not long,” &c.

STEEVENS.

394. *For, by his death, we do perceive his guilt*.] According to the ancient usage of the duel, the vanquished person not only lost his life but his reputation, and his death was always regarded as a certain evidence of his guilt. We have a remarkable instance of this in an account of the *Duellum inter Dominum Johannem*



*Johannem Hannesly, & Robertum Katlenton, Armigerum, in quo Robertus fuit occisus.* From whence, says the historian, “*magna fuit evidentia quod militis causa erat vera, ex quo mors alterius sequebatur.*” A Murimuth, ad ann. 1380, p. 149. BOWLE.

401. *Barren winter, with his wrathful nipping cold:]* Thus, in Sackville's Induction.

“The wrathful winter proching on a-pace.”

REED.

402. ———as seasons fleet.] To fleet is to change. So, in *Antony and Cleopatra*:

“—————now the fleeting moon

“No planet is of mine.”

STEEVENS.

407. *Uneath*——] i. e. Scarcely.

POPE.

So, in the metrical romance of *Guy Earl of Warwick*, bl. l. no date:

“*Uneathes* we came from him certain,

“That he ne had us all slain.”

*Eath* is the ancient word for *ease* or *easy*. So, in *Spenser's Faery Queene*, B. IV. c. 6:

“More *eath* was new impression to receive.”

*Uneath* is commonly used by the same author for *not easily*. STEEVENS.

411. *With envious looks still laughing at thy shame;]* Still, which is not in the elder copies, was added in the second folio. MALONE.

430. *Mail'd up in shame.*——] Wrapped up; bundled up in disgrace; alluding to the sheet of penance.

JOHNSON.

461. ———any scathe,] Scathe is harm, or mischief.



chief. Chaucer, Spenser, and all our ancient writers, are frequent in their use of this word.

STEEVENS.

466. *Thy greatest help is quiet,*——] The poet has not endeavoured to raise much compassion for the dutchess, who indeed suffers but what she had deserved.

JOHNSON.

481. *——the world may laugh*——] That is, The world may look again favourably upon me.

JOHNSON.

509. *——I long to see my prison.*] This impatience of a high spirit is very natural. It is not so dreadful to be imprisoned, as it is desirable in a state of disgrace to be sheltered from the scorn of gazers.

ACT III.

Line 23. *ME seemeth*——] That is, it seemeth to me, a word more grammatical than *methinks*, which has, I know not how, intruded into its place.

JOHNSON.

44. *——your grace's tale,*] Suffolk uses *highness* and *grace* promiscuously to the queen. *Majesty* was not the settled title till the time of king James the First.

JOHNSON.

48. *Yet, by reputed of his high descent*] Thus the old



old copy. The modern editors read—*repeating*. *Reputing of his high descent*, is *valuing himself upon it*. The same word occurs in the 5th act :

“ And in my conscience do *repute* his grace.” &c.

STEEVENS.

87. *Cold news for me ; &c.*] These two lines *York* had spoken before in the first act of this play. He is now meditating on his disappointment, and comparing his former hopes with his present loss. STEEVENS.

91. ———*this gear*———] *Gear* was a general word for things or matters. JOHNSON.

So, in the story of *King Darius*, an interlude, 1565 :

“ Wyll not yet this *gere* be amended,

“ Nor your sinful acts corrected ?” STEEVENS.

98. *Well, Suffolk, yet*———] *Yet* was added in the second folio. MALONE.

133. ———*these faults are easy*,———] *Easy* is slight, inconsiderable, as in other passages of this author.

JOHNSON.

*Easy* for *easily*.

REMARKS.

140. ———*all suspicion ;*] The folio reads—*all suspence*.

Perhaps the author wrote—*suspect*. So, in a following scene :

“ If my *suspect* be false, forgive me, God !”

STEEVENS.

164. ———*liefest*———] Is *dearest*.

JOHNSON.

So, in Spenser's *Faery Queene*, B. II. c. 1.

“ ———Madam, my *lief*,

“ For



“ For God’s dear love,” &c.

Again, c. ii.

“ —Fly, oh my *liefest* lord.” STEEVENS.

210. *And as the butcher takes away the calf,*

*And binds the wretch, and beats it when it strays,]*

It is common for butchers to tie a rope or halter about the neck of a calf when they take it away from the breeder’s farm, and to beat it gently if it attempts to stray from the direct road. The duke of Gloster is borne away like the calf, that is, he is taken away upon his feet ; but he is not carried away as a burthen on horseback, or upon men’s shoulders, or in their hands. TOLLET.

223. *Free lords, &c.]* By this she means (as may be seen by the sequel) you, who are not bound up to such precise regards of religion as is the king ; but are men of the world, and know how to live.

WARBURTON.

245. *’Tis York that hath more reason for his death.]*

York had more reason, because duke Humphrey stood between him and the crown, which he had proposed to himself as the termination of his ambitious views. So act III. sc. v.

“ *For Humphrey being dead, as he shall be,*

“ *And Henry put apart the next for me.*” STEEVENS.

See Mr. Fenn’s Observations on the duke of Suffolk’s death, in the collection of the *Paston Letters*. Vol. I. p. 48. HENLEY.

256. *No; let him die, in that he is a fox,*

*By nature prov’d an enemy to the flock,*

*Before*



*Before his chaps he stain'd with crimson blood ;*

*As Humphrey prov'd by reasons to my liege.]* The meaning of the speaker is not hard to be discovered, but his expression is very much perplexed. He means that the Fox may be lawfully killed, as being known to be by nature an enemy to sheep, even before he has actually killed them ; so Humphrey may be properly destroyed, as being proved by arguments to be the king's enemy, before he has committed any actual crime.

Some may be tempted to read *treasons* for *reasons*, but the drift of the argument is to shew that there may be *reason* to kill him before any treason was broken out. JOHNSON.

264. ———*for that is good deceit*

*Which mates him first, that first intends deceit.]*

*Mates* him, means *confounds* him ; from *amatir* or *mater*, French. REMARKS.

272. ———*I will be his priest.]* I will be the attendant on his last scene, I will be the last man whom he will see. JOHNSON.

275. ———*and censure well the deed,]* That is, approve the deed, judge the deed good. JOHNSON.

281. *It skills not——]* It is of no importance.

JOHNSON.

So, in Sir T. More's *Utopia*, translated by R. Robinson, 1624 : " I will describe to you one or other of them, for *it skilleth* not greatly which." MALONE.

354. ———*mad bred flaw.]* *Flaw* is a sudden violent gust of wind. JOHNSON.

365.



365. to] Added by some modern editors. MALONE.

——a wild Morisco,] A Moor in a military dance, now called Morris, that is, a Moorish dance.

JOHNSON.

In *Albion's Triumph*, a masque, 1631, the seventh entry consists of *mimicks* or *Moriscos*.

Again, in Marston's *What you will*, 1607 :

“ Your wit skips a *Morisco*.”

The *Morris-dance* was the *Tripudium Mauritanicum*, a kind of hornpipe. Junius describes it thus : “—faciem plerumque inficiunt fulgine, et peregrinium vestium cultum assumunt, qui ludicris talibus indulgent, ut Mauri esse videantur, aut e longius remotâ patriâ credantur advolasse, atque insolens recreationis genus advexisse.”

In the churchwardens' accompts of the parish of St. Helen's in Abington, Berkshire, from the first year of the reign of Philip and Mary, to the thirty-fourth of Queen Elizabeth, the *Morrice* bells are mentioned. Anno 1560, the third of Elizabeth,——“ For two dossin of *Morres* bells.” As these appear to have been purchased by the community, we may suppose this diversion was constantly practised at their public festivals. See the plate of *Morris-dancers* at the end of the first part of *K. Henry IV.* with Mr. Toller's remarks annexed to it. STEEVENS.

383. *Scene II.*] This scene, and the directions concerning it, stand thus in the quarto edition ;

*Then the curtaines being drawne, Duke Humphrey is discovered in his bed, and two men lying on his brest, and smothering*



*smothering him in his bed. And then enter the Duke of Suffolk to them.*

*Suff.* How now, sirs ! what, have you dispatch'd him ?

*One.* Aye, my lord ; he's dead, I warrant you.

*Suff.* Then see the cloaths laidsmooth about still,  
That when the king comes, he may perceive  
No other, but that he dide of his own accord.

2. All things is handsome, now my lord.

*Suff.* Then draw the curtains again, and get you gone,  
And you shall have your firm reward anon.

[*Exeunt Murtherers.*

STEEVENS.

409. *I thank thee &c.*] In former editions :

*I thank thee Nell, these words content me much :*

This is king Henry's reply to his wife Margaret. There can be no reason why he should forget his own wife's name, and call her Nell instead of Margaret. As the change of a single letter sets all right. I am willing to suppose it came from his pen thus :

*I thank thee. Well, these words content me much.*

THEOBALD.

424. ———*right now*———] Just now, even now.

JOHNSON.

436. ———*Come, Basilisk,*

*And kill the innocent gazer with thy sight :]*

So, in *Albion's England*, B. 1. c. 3.

“ ———*As Æsculap an herdsman did espie*

“ That



“ That did witheasy fight enforce a *basilisk* to flye,  
 “ Albeit naturally that beast doth murther with  
 the eye.”

REED.

457. *Be woe for me,——*] That is, Let not woe be  
 to thee for Gloster, but for me.

JOHNSON.

460. *What, art thou, like the adder, waxen deaf?*] This allusion, which has been borrowed by many writers from the Proverbs of Solomon, and *Psalm* lviii. may receive an odd illustration from the following passage in *Gower de Confessione Amantis*, B. I. fol. x.

“ A serpent, which that aspidis  
 “ Is cleped, of his kinde hath this,  
 “ That he the stone noblest of all,  
 “ The whiche that men carbuncle call,  
 “ Bereth in his heed above on hight ;  
 “ For whiche whan that a man by slight  
 “ (The stone to wynne, and him to dante)  
 “ With his carecte him wold enchante,  
 “ Anone as he perceiveth that,  
 “ He lyeth downe his one eare all plat  
 “ Unto the grounde, and halt it fast :  
 “ And eke that other eare als faste  
 “ He stoppeth with his taille so sore  
 “ That he the wordes, lasse nor more,  
 “ Of his enchantment ne hereth :  
 “ And in his wise himselfe he skiereth,  
 “ So that he hath the wordes wayved,  
 “ And thus his eare is nought deceived.”

Shakspeare has the same allusion in *Troilus and Cressida* :



“ Have ears more *deaf* than adders, to the voice

“ Of any true decision.” STEEVENS.

467. ———*awkward wind*———] Thus the old copy.  
The modern editors read *adverse winds*. STEEVENS.

481. *The splitting rocks, &c.*] The sense seems to be this.—The rocks hid themselves in the sands, which sunk to receive them into their bosom.

STEEVENS.

484. *Might in thy palace perish Margaret.*] The verb *perish* is here used actively. So, in the *Maid's Tragedy* by Beaumont and Fletcher :

“ ————let not my sins

“ *Perish* your noble youth.” STEEVENS.

500. *To sit and watch me, as Ascanius did,  
When he to madding Dido would unfold  
His father's act commenc'd in burning Troy ?]*

The poet here is unquestionably alluding to Virgil (*Æneid* I.) but he strangely blends fact with fiction. In the first place, it was Cupid in the semblance of Ascanius, who sat in Dido's lap, and was fondled by her. But then it was not Cupid who related to her the process of Troy's destruction ; but it was *Æneas* himself who related this history. Again, how did the supposed Ascanius sit and *watch* her ? Cupid was ordered, while Dido mistakenly caressed him, to bewitch and infect her with love. To this circumstance the poet certainly alludes ; and, unless he had wrote, as I have restored to the text,

*To sit and witch me,———*

why should the queen immediately draw this inference,

*Am*



*Am I not witch'd like her ?*

THEOBALD.

515. ————*not Henry :*] The poet commonly uses Henry as a word of three syllables. JOHNSON.

536. *For seeing him I see my life in death.*] Though, by a violent operation, some sense may be extracted from this reading, yet I think it will be better to change it thus :

*For seeing him, I see my death in life.*

That is, Seeing him, I live to see my own destruction. Thus it will aptly correspond with the first line :

*Come hither, gracious sovereign, view this body.*

K. Henry. *That is to see how deep my grave is made.* JOHNSON.

———*I see my life in death.*] Surely the poet's meaning is obvious as the words now stand———*I see my life destroyed or endangered by his death.* PERCY.

545. *Oft have I seen a timely-parted ghost,*

*Of ashy semblance, meager, pale, and bloodless,]*

I cannot but stop a moment to observe, that this horrible description is scarcely the work of any pen but Shakspeare's. JOHNSON.

This is not the first time that Shakspeare has confounded the terms that signify *body* and *soul*, together. So, in the *Midsummer Night's Dream* :

“ ———damned *spirits* all

“ That in cross ways and floods have *burial*.”

STEEVENS.

617. *Thrice is he arm'd that hath his quarrel just ;]* Perhaps our author had Marlowe's *Lust's Dominion* in his thoughts :



“Come, Moor, I am *arm'd* with more than complete steel,

“The *justice* of my *quarrel*.” MALONE.

647. *The mortal worm*——] Serpents in general were anciently called *worms*. So, in the *Devil's Charter*, 1607, Pope Alexander says, when he takes off the aspicks from the young princes :

“How now, proud *worms*? how tastes yon princes' blood?” STEEVENS.

694. *Would curses kill, as doth the mandrake's groan,*] The fabulous accounts of the plant called a *mandrake*, give it an inferior degree of animal life, and relate, that when it is torn from the ground it groans, and that this groan being certainly fatal to him that is offering such unwelcome violence, the practice of those who gather mandrakes is to tie one end of a string to the plant, and the other to a dog, upon whom the fatal groan discharges its malignity. JOHNSON.

The same allusion occurs in *Aristippus, or the Jovial Philosopher*, by Randolph :

“This is the *mandrake's* voice that *undoes me*.”

STEEVENS.

705. ——*Poison be their drink!*] Most of these execrations are used in the very words of Shakspeare by Lee, in his *Cæsar Borgia*, a. 4. STEEVENS.

707. ——*of cypress trees!*] *Cypress* was employed in the funeral rites of the Romans, and hence is always mentioned as an ill-boding plant. STEEVENS.

708. ——*murdering basilisks!*——*Lizards' stings!*] It



It has been said of the *basilisk* that it had the power of destroying by a single glance of its eye. A *lizard* has no sting, but is quite inoffensive. STEEVENS.

717. *You bade me ban, and will you bid me leave?*] This inconsistency is very common in real life. Those who are vexed to impatience are angry to see others less disturbed than themselves; but when others begin to rave, they immediately see in them, what they could not find in themselves, the deformity and folly of useless rage. JOHNSON.

728. *That thou might'st think upon these by the seal,  
Through whom a thousand sighs, &c.*] That by the impression of my kiss for ever remaining on thy hand, thou mightest think on those lips through which a thousand sighs will be breathed for thee. JOHNSON.

764. *Aye me, what is this world? what news are these?*] Instead of this line, the quarto reads:

Oh! what is wordly pomp? all men must die,  
And woe am I for Beaufort's heavy end.

STEEVENS.

765. ——— *at an hour's poor loss.*] I believe the poet's meaning is, *Wherefore do I grieve that Beaufort has died an hour before his time*, who being an old man, could not have had a long time to live? STEEVENS.

778. *Where, from thy sight,——*] In the preambles of almost all the statutes made during the first twenty years of queen Elizabeth's reign, the word *where* is employed instead of *whereas*. It is so used here. MALONE.



781. ———turn thy flying soul,] Perhaps Mr. Pope was indebted to this passage in his *Eloisa to Abelard*, where he makes that votarist of exquisite sensibility say,

“ See my lips tremble, and my eye-balls roll,

“ Suck my last breath, and catch my *flying soul*.”

STEEVENS.

787. *Away! though parting be a fretful corrosive,*] This word was generally, in our author's time, written, and, I suppose, pronounced *corsive*; and the metre shews that it ought to be so printed here. So, in *The Spanish Tragedy*, 1605:

“ His son distrest, a *corsive* to his heart.”

Again, in *The Alchymist*, by Ben Jonson, 1610:

“ Now do you see that something's to be done

“ Beside your beech-coal and your *corsive* waters.”

Again, in an *Ode* by the same:

“ I send not balms nor *corsives* to your wound.”

MALONE.

791. *I'll have an Iris*——] Iris was the messenger of Juno.

JOHNSON.

So, in *All's Well that End's Well*:

“ ———this distemper'd messenger of wet,

“ The many-colour'd Iris——.” STEEVENS.

799. *Enter king Henry, &c.*] The quarto offers the following stage directions: *Enter King and Salisbury, and then the curtaines be drawne, and the cardinal is discovered in his bed, raving and staring as if he were mad.*

STEEVENS.

826.



826. *Hold up thy hand*—] Thus in the spurious play of *K. John*, 1611, Pandulph sees the king dying, and says :

“ Then, good my lord, if you forgive them all,

“ *Lift up your hand*, in token you forgive.”

Again :

“ *Lift up thy hand*, that we may witness here,

“ Thou diest the servant of our Saviour Christ:—

“ Now joy betide thy soul !”

This *K. John* was first published in 1591. STEEVENS.

829. *Forbear to judge, &c.*]

“ Peccantes culpare cave, nam libimur omnes,

“ Aut summus, aut fuimus, vel possumus esse  
quod hic est.” JOHNSON.

831 *Exeunt.*] This is one of the scenes which have been applauded by the criticks, and which will continue to be admired when prejudice shall cease, and bigotry give way to impartial examination. These are beauties that rise out of nature and of truth ; the superficial reader cannot miss them, the profound can image nothing beyond them. JOHNSON.

# ACT IV.

Line 1. *FIGHT at sea.*] Perhaps Ben Jonson was thinking of this play, when he put the following declaration into the mouth of Morose in the *Silent Woman* :



*Woman* : “Nay, I would sit out a play that were nothing but *fights at sea*, drum, trumpet, and target.”

STEEVENS.

*The gaudy, blabbing,—day,*] The epithet *blabbing*, applied to the day by a man about to commit murder, is exquisitely beautiful. Guilt is afraid of light, considers darkness as a natural shelter, and makes night the confidante of those actions which cannot be trusted to the *tell-tale day*

JOHNSON.

———*remorseful day.*] *Remorseful* is pitiful.

STEEVENS.

3. ———*the jades*

*That drag the tragic melancholy night,*

*Who with their drowsy, slow, and flagging wings*

*Clip dead men's graves,——*] The wings of the

jades that drag night, appears an unnatural image, till it is remembered that the chariot of the night is supposed, by Shakspeare, to be drawn by dragons.

JOHNSON.

21. *Nor can those lives——*] The old copy reads *the lives of those*.

STEEVENS.

29. *Look on my George,——*] In the first edition it is my ring.

WARBURTON.

35. ———*by Water——*] So, in queen Margaret's letter to this duke of Suffolk, by Michael Drayton :

“I pray thee, Poole, have care how thou dost pass,

“Never the sea yet half so dangerous was,

“And one foretold, by *water* thou should'st die,” &c.

A note



A note on these lines says, "The witch of Eye received answer from her spirit, that the duke of Suffolk should take heed of *water*." See the fourth scene of the first act of this play. STEEVENS.

48. *Jove some time went disguis'd, &c.*] This verse is omitted in all but the first old edition, without which what follows is not sense. The next line also:

*Obscure and lowly swain, king Henry's blood,*  
was falsely put in the Captain's mouth. POPE.

50. —*lowly swain,*—] The quarto reads *lowsy swain*. STEEVENS.

52. —*such a jaded groom.*] This epithet seems to me so strange, that I suspect some corruption. The quarto reads either *lady-groom*, or *jady-groom*; it is difficult to say which. MALONE.

60. —*abortive pride:*] Pride that has had birth too soon, pride issuing before its time. JOHNSON.

70. *Thou dar'st not, &c.*] In the quarto edition the passage stands thus,

*Suf.* Thou dar'st not for thy own.

*Cap.* Yes, Pole.

*Suf.* Pole!

*Cap.* Ay, Pole, puddle, kennel, sink, and dirt,  
I'll stop that yawning mouth of thine.

I think the two intermediate speeches should be inserted in the text, to introduce the captain's repetition of *Poole*, &c. STEEVENS.

71. *Poole? Sir Poole? lord?*] The dissonance of  
this



this broken line makes it almost certain that we should read with a kind of ludicrous climax :

*Poole ? Sir Poole ? lord Poole ?*

He then plays upon the name *Poole*, *kennel*, *puddle*.

JOHNSON.

81. ——— *to affy* ———] To *affy* is to betroth in marriage. So, in Drayton's *Legend of Pierce Gaveston* :

“ In bands of wedlock did to me *affy*

“ A lady,” &c.

Again, in the 17th Song of the *Polyolbion* :

“ ———the *Almaine* emperor's bride

“ Which after to the earl of *Anjou* was *affy'd*.”

STEEVENS.

108. *Being captain of a pinnace*,] A *pinnace* did not anciently signify, as at present, a man of war's boat, but a ship of small burthen. So, in *Winwood's Memorials*, Vol. III. p. 118. “ The king (James I.) naming the great ship, *Trade's Increase*; and the prince, a *pinnace* of 250 tons (built to wait upon her), *Peppercorn*.”

STEEVENS.

The complement of men on board a *pinnace* (or *spyner*) was about twenty five. See *Paston Letters*, Vol. I. p. 159.

HENLEY.

109. *Than Bargulus the strong Illyrian pirate*.] Mr. Theobald says, “ This wight I have not been able to trace, or discover from what legend our author derived his acquaintance with him.” And yet he is to be met with in *Tully's Offices*; and the legend is the famous *Theopompus's History*: “ *Bargulus Illyrius latro*,  
de



*de quo est apud Theopompum, magnas opes habuit,"* lib. ii. cap. 11.

WARBURTON.

Dr. Farmer observes, that Shakspeare might have met with this pirate in two translations. Robert Whynton, 1533, calls him "Bargulus, a pirate upon the see of Illiry;" and Nicholas Grimald, about twenty-three years afterwards, "Bargulus the Illyrian robber."

Bargulus does not make his appearance in the quarto; but we meet with another hero in his room. The Captain, says *Suffolk*,

Threatens more plagues than mighty *Abradas*,  
The great Macedonian pirate.

I know nothing more of this *Abradas*, than that he is mentioned by Greene in his *Penelope's Web*, 1601:

"*Abradas* the great Macedonian pirate thought every one had a letter of mart that bare sayles in the ocean."

STEEVENS.

In Cotgrave's *Dictionary*, *Abbras*, is the name of a terrible gyant in the old Romants: whence, "Ce fier *Abbras*:" this kil-cow, skarecrow, bugbear, swash-buckler, horrible hackster.

TOLLET.

118. Gelidus timor occupat artus:] *Ovid. de Tristibus*, 313.

STEEVENS.

133. Come, soldiers, shew what cruelty you can.] Surely this line belongs to the next speech. No cruelty was meditated beyond decollation; and without such an introduction, there is an obscure abruptness in the beginning of *Suffolk's* reply to the Captain. STEEVENS.

135. —bezoniens.] See a note on the 2d part of *Henry IV.* act v. scene iii.



“ *Bisognoso*, is a mean low man.”

So, in *Sir Giles Gooscap*, 1606:

“ ———if he come to me like your *Besognio*, or your boor.”

Again, in Markham's *English Husbandman*, p. 4.

“ The ordinary tillers of the earth, such as we call husbandmen: in France peasants, in Spain *besonyans*, and generally the cloutshoe.” STEEVENS.

136. *A Roman sworder, &c.*] *i. e.* Herennius a centurion, and Popilius Lænas, tribune of the soldiers.

STEEVENS.

137. ———*Brutus' bastard hand*] Brutus was the son of Servilia, a Roman lady, who had been concubine to Julius Cæsar.

STEEVENS.

139. *Pompey the great* ;] The poet seems to have confounded the story of Pompey with some other.

JOHNSON.

This circumstance might be advanced as a slight proof, in aid of many stronger, that our poet was no classical scholar. Such a one could not easily have forgotten the manner in which the life of Pompey was concluded. Pompey, however, is not in the quarto. Spenser likewise abounds with deviations from established history and fable.

STEEVENS.

143. *There let his head, &c.*] Instead of this speech, the quarto gives us the following:

*Cap.* Off with his head, and send it to the queen,  
And ransomless this prisoner shall go free,

To see it safe delivered unto her. STEEVENS.

An excellent letter of this unfortunate nobleman to  
his



his son, just before his own death, and many other interesting anecdotes respecting him, are preserved in the very curious collection of the *Paston Letters* just published by Mr. Fenn.—One, which relates the particulars of his murder, is here subjoined :

“ *To the ryght worchipfull John Paston, at Norwich.*

“ Ryght worchipfull Sr. I recomaunde me to yow, and am right sory of that I shalle sey and have soo weshe this litel bill with sorwfulle terys that on ethes (*scarcely*) ye shalle reede it.

“ As on Monday nexte after May (day 4<sup>th</sup>. *May*) the<sup>r</sup> come tydyngs to London that on Thorsday before (30<sup>th</sup>. of *April*) the Duke of Suff<sup>r</sup> come unto the costes of Kent full nere Dower with his ij shepes and a litel Spynn<sup>r</sup> the qweche Spynn<sup>r</sup> he sente with c<sup>r</sup>teyn Lett<sup>r</sup>s to c<sup>r</sup>teyn of his trustid men unto Caleys warde to knowe howe he shuld be resceyvyd, and with hym mette a shippe callyd Nicolas of the Towre, with other shippis waytyng on hym, and by hem that were in the Spyner the maister of the Nicolas hadde knowlich of the Dukes amyng, and whanne he espyed the Dukes shepis he sent forth his bote to wete what they were, and the Duke hym selfe spakke to hem, and seyde he was be the Kyngs comaundement sent to Caleys ward, &c.

“ And they seyde he moste speke with here mast<sup>r</sup> and soo he w<sup>t</sup> ij or iij of his men wente forth wyth hem yn here bote to the Nicolas, and whanne he come the mast<sup>r</sup> badde hym welcom Traitor as mē sey, and for-



th<sup>r</sup> the maistr<sup>r</sup> desyryd to wete yf the Shepmen woldde holde with the Duke, and they sent word the wold not ynn noo wyse, and soo he was yn the Nicolas tyl Saturday next (2<sup>d</sup>. May) folwyng.

“Soom sey he wrotte moche thenke to be delyurd to the Kynge, but that is not verily knowe, he hadde his Confessor with him, &c.

“And some sey he was arreyned yn the sheppe on here man<sup>r</sup> upon the appechementes, and fonde gylty, &c.

“Also he asked the name of the sheppe, and whanne he knew it he remembred Stacy that seid if he myght eschape the daung<sup>r</sup> of the Towr he shud be saffe, and than his herte faylyd hym for he thowght he was dyssevyd, and yn the syght of all drawyn ought of the grete Shippe yn to the Bote, and there was an Exe and a stoke and oon of the lewdeste (*meanest*) of the shippe badde hym ley down hys hedde and he shud be fair ferd wyth and dye on a swerd, and smotte of his hedde withyn halfe a doseyn strokes, and toke away his Gown of russette and his Dobelette of velvet mayled, and leyde his body on the Sonds of Dover, and some sey his hedde was sette oon a pole by it, and hes men sette on the londe grette circōst<sup>u</sup>nce and prey [*that is*, as I understand it, after the most circumstancial proofs of their not being accessories with the Duke, and intreaties to be discharged] and the Shreve of Kent doth weche the body and sent his Unde<sup>r</sup> Shreve to the Juges to wete what to doo, and also to the Kenge whatte shalbe doo.

“Forther



“Forther I wotte notte but this fer is y<sup>e</sup> yf the p’s  
(*procss*) be erroneo<sup>s</sup> lete his concell reurse it,” &c.

This letter was written on Tuesday 5 of May 1450,  
& in the 28 of Henry VI.

Mr. Fenn adds, that “the Duke’s body was taken  
from Dover Sands, and carried to the Collegiate  
Church of Wingfield in Suffolk, where it lies interred  
under an altar tomb, in the Chancel, with his effigies  
in armour, painted, gilt, &c. carved in wood, lying  
on it. It is remarkably well executed, as is that of  
Alice his wife likewise, which lies at his right hand.

See Mr. Fenn’s observations on the preceding nar-  
rative, in the *Collection of the Paston Letters*, Vol. I.  
p. 48.

HENLEY.

149. —get thee a sword,—] The quarto reads  
—put a long staff in thy pike, &c.

STEEVENS.

152. Jack Cade &c.] See a curious and authentick  
account of Cade and his proceedings in Fenn’s Col-  
lection of the *Paston Letters*, Vol. I. p. 55, &c.

HENLEY.

182. —a cade of herrings.] *i. e.* a barrel of her-  
rings. I suppose the word *keg*, which is now used, is  
*cade* corrupted.

JOHNSON.

Nash speaks of having weighed one of Gabriel Her-  
vey’s books against a *cade of herrings*, and says, “That  
the rebel Jack Cade was the first that devised to put  
redde herrings in *ca*des, and from him they have their  
name.” *Praise of the Red Herring*, 1599.

STEEVENS.

183. —our enemies shall fall before us,—] He

D iij

alludes



alludes to his name *Cade*, from *cado*, Lat. *to fall*. He has too much learning for his character. JOHNSON.

*We John Cade, &c.*] This passage, I think, should be regulated thus :

*Cade*. We John Cade, so term'd of our supposed father, for our enemies shall fall before us ;——

*Dick*. Or rather of stealing a cade of herrings.

*Cade*. Inspired with the spirit, &c. TYRWHITT.

196. ——*furr'd pack*,——] A wallet or knapsack of skin with the hair outward. JOHNSON.

213. ——*the three-hoop'd pot shall have ten hoops* ;] In the *Gulls Horn-Booke*, a satirical pamphlet by Decker, 1609, *hoops* are mentioned among other drinking measures : “ —his *hoops*, cans, half-cans,” &c. And, in Nash's *Pierce Pennilesse his Supplication to the Devil*, 1595 : “ I believe *hoopes* in quart pots were invented to that end, that every man should take his *hoope*, and no more.”

It appears from a passage in *Cynthia's Revels*, by Ben Jonson, that, “ burning of Cans” was one of the offices of a city magistrate. I suppose he means burning such as were not of statutable measure. STEEVENS.

An anonymous commentator supposes, perhaps with more truth that “ the burning of cans” was, marking them with a red-hot iron, which is still practised by the magistrate in many country burroughs, in proof of *their being* statutable measure.

These *cans*, it should be observed, were of *wood*.

HENLEY.



219. ———*there shall be no money;*] To mend the world by banishing money is an old contrivance of those who did not consider that the quarrels and mischiefs which arise from money, as the sign or ticket of riches, must, if money were to cease, arise immediately from riches themselves, and could never be at an end till every man was contented with his own share of the goods of life. JOHNSON.

246. *They use to write it on the top of letters;*] *i. e.* Of letters missive, and such like publick acts. See Ma-billion's *Diplomata*. WARBURTON.

In the old anonymous play, called *The famous Victories of Henry V. containing the honourable Battle of Agincourt*, I find the same circumstance. The archbishop of Burges (*i. e.* Bruges) is the speaker, and addresses himself to king Henry :

“ I beseech your grace to deliver me your safe

“ Conduct, under your broad seal *Emanuel*.”

The king in answer says,

“ ———deliver him safe conduct

“ Under our broad seal *Emanuel*.” STEEVENS.

277. ———*I pass not;*] I pay them no regard.

JOHNSON.

So, in Drayton's *Quest of Cynthia* :

“ Transform me to what shape you can,

“ *I pass not* what it be.” STEEVENS.

351. *This monument of the victory will I bear;——]*  
Here Cade must be supposed to take off Stafford's armour. So, Holinshed :

“ Jack



“ Jack Cade, upon his victory against the Staffords, apparelled himself in Sir Humphrey’s brigandine, set full of gilt nails, and so in some glory returned again toward London.” STEEVENS.

355. *If we mean to thrive and do good, &c.*] I think it should be read thus, *If we mean to thrive, do good; break open the goals, &c.* JOHNSON.

374. *Rul’d, like a wand’ring planet,——*] Predominated irresistibly over my passions, as the planets over the lives of those that are born under their influence. JOHNSON.

438. *Knock him down there,*] So, in Holinshed, p. 634. “ He also put to execution, &c. and other being his old acquaintance, lest they should bewraie his base lineage, disparaging him for his usurped name of Mortimer.” STEEVENS.

446. *Matthew Gough*] “ A man of great wit and much experience in feats of chivalrie, the which in continuall warres had spent his time in service of the king and his father.” Holinshed, p. 635.

452. *——that the laws of England may come out of your mouth.*] This alludes to what Holinshed has related of *Wat Tyler*, p. 432. “ It was reported, indeed, that he should saie with great pride, putting his hands to his lipps, that within four daies *all the lawes of England should come foorth of his mouth.*”

TYRWHITT.



471. ———*thou say, thou serge,*——] *Say* was the old word for *silk*; on this depends the series of degradation, from *say* to *serge*, from *serge* to *buckram*.

JOHNSON.

So, in Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, B. I. c. iv.

“All in a kirtle of discolour'd *say*

“He clothed was.”

Again, in his *Perigot and Cuddy's Roundelay*:

“And in a kirtle of green *say*.”

It appears, however, from the following passage in the *Faerie Queene*, B. III. c. ii. that *say* was not *silk*:

“His garment neither was of *silk* nor *say*.”

STEEVENS.

482. ———*printing to be us'd*——] Shakspeare is a little too early with this accusation. JOHNSON.

Shakspeare might have been led into a mistake by Daniel, in the sixth book of his *Civil Wars*, who introduces *printing* and *artillery* as contemporary inventions:

“Let there be found two fatal instruments,

“The one to publish, th' other to defend

“Impious contention, and proud discontent;

“Make that *instamped characters* may send

“Abroad to thousands thousands men's intent;

“And in a moment may dispatch much more

“Than could a world of pens perform before.”

Shakspeare's absurdities may always be countenanced by those of writers nearly his contemporaries.

In the tragedy of *Herod and Antipater*, by Gervase,  
Mark-



Markham and William Sampson, who were both scholars, is the following passage:

“Though *cannons* roar yet you must not be deaf.”

Spenser mentions *cloth* made at Lincoln during the ideal reign of K. Arthur, and has adorn'd a castle at the same period “with cloth of *Arras* and of *Toure*.” Chaucer introduces *guns* in the time of Antony and Cleopatra, and (as Mr. Wharton has observed) Salvator Rosa places a *cannon* at the entrance of the tent of Holofernes.

STEEVENS.

Mr. Meerman, in his *Origines Typographicæ*, hath availed himself of this passage in Shakspeare, to support his hypothesis, that printing was introduced into England (before the time of Caxton) by Frederic Corsellis, a workman from Haerlem, in the time of Henry VI.

BLACKSTONE.

488. —to call poor men before them about matters they were not able to answer.] The quarto reads, with more humour,——“honest men that steal for their living.”

MALONE.

490. —because they could not read, thou hast hang'd them:——] *i. e.* They were hanged because they could not claim the benefit of clergy.

JOHNSON.

493. ——Thou dost ride on a foot-cloth,——] A *foot-cloth* was a horse with housings which reached as low as his feet. So, in the tragedy of *Muleasses the Turk*, 1610:

“I have seen, since my coming to Florence, the son of a pedlar mounted on a *foot-cloth*.”

STEEVENS.



495. ———to let thy horse wear a cloak,——] This is a reproach truly characteristical. Nothing gives so much offence to the lower ranks of mankind as the sight of superfluities merely ostentatious. JOHNSON.

502. ———*bona terra, mala gens.*] After this line the quarto proceeds thus,

*Cade.* *Bonum terrum*, what's that?

*Dick.* He speaks French.

*Will.* No, 'tis Dutch.

*Nick.* No, 'tis Outalian: I know it well enough.

Holinshed has likewise stigmatized the Kentish men, p. 677." The *Kentish-men*, in this season (whose minds be ever movable at the change of princes) came," &c.

STEEVENS.

507. *Is term'd the civil'st place of all this isle:*] So, in Cæsar's *Comment.* B. V. "Ex his omnibus sunt humanissimi qui *Cantium* incolunt." The passage is thus translated by Arthur Golding, 1590: "Of all the inhabitants of this isle, the *civilest* are the Kentish-foke."

STEEVENS.

515. *When have I aught exacted at your hands?*

*Kent to maintain, the king, the realm, and you,*

*Large gifts have I bestow'd on learned clerks,*

*Because my book preferr'd me to the king.]* This

passage I know not well how to explain. It is pointed so as to make *Say* declare that he preferred clerks to maintain Kent and the king. This is not very clear; and, besides, he gives in the following line another reason of his bountty, that learning raised him, and therefore



therefore he supported learning. I am inclined to think Kent slipped into this passage by chance, and would read:

*When have I aught exacted at your hand,  
But to maintain the king, the realm and you?*

JOHNSON.

I concur with Dr. Johnson in believing the word *Kent* to have been shuffled into the text by accident. Lord Say, as the passage stands at present, not only declares he had preferred men of learning *to maintain Kcnt, the king, the realm*, but adds toutologically *you*; for it should be remembered that they are Kentish men to whom he is now speaking. I would read, *Bent to maintain, &c. i. e. strenuously resolved to the utmost, to, &c.*

STEEVENS.

534. — *the help of a hatchet*] We have here, as Dr. Farmer observed to me, a strange corruption. *The help of a hatchet* is little better than nonsense, and it is almost certain our author originally wrote *pap with a hatchet*; alluding to Lilly's pamphlet with the same title, which made its appearance about the time when this play is supposed to have been written.

STEEVENS.

535. *Why dost thou quiver, man? &c.*] Otway has borrowed this thought in *Venice Preserved*:

“*Spinosa*. You are trembling, sir,

“*Renault*. 'Tis a cold night indeed, and I am aged.

“Full of decay and natural infirmities.”

STEEVENS.



546. *These hands are free from guiltless blood-shedding.*]

The word *guiltless* was, I imagine, an interlineation in the MS. and has, I think, been inserted in a wrong place, I believe, we ought to read,

These hands are guiltless, free from blood-shedding.  
MALONE.

550. — *he shall die, an it be but for pleading so well for his life.*]

This sentiment is not merely designed as an expression of ferocious triumph, but to mark the eternal enmity which the vulgar bear to those of more liberal education and superior rank. The vulgar are always ready to depreciate the talents which they behold with envy, and insult the eminence which they despair to reach.  
STEEVENS.

551. — *a familiar under his tongue ;]* A *familiar* is a *dæmon* who was supposed to attend at call. So, in *Love's Labour's Lost* :

“ Love is a *familiar* ; there is no angel but love.”

STEEVENS.

565. — *shall pay to me her maidenhead, &c.]* Alluding to an ancient usage on which Beaumont and Fletcher have founded their play, called the *Custom of the Country*. See Mr. Seward's note at the beginning of it. See also Cowell's *Law Dict.* in voce *Marchet*, &c. &c. &c.  
STEEVENS.

570. — *Take up commodities upon our bills ?]* Perhaps this is an equivoque alluding to the *brown bills*, or halberds with which the commons were anciently armed.  
PERCY.

573. — *Let them kiss one another ;]* This is from  
E the



the *Mirroure for Magistrates*, in the legend of *Jack Cade*:

“ With these two heads I made a pretty play,

“ For pight on poales I bore them through the  
strete,

“ And for my sport made *each kisse other swete*.”

FARMER.

It is likewise found in Holinshed, p. 634. “ and as it were in a spite caused them in every street *to kisse together*.”

STEEVENS.

632. *Henry hath money*,——] Dr. Warburton reads, *Henry hath mercy*; but he does not seem to have attended to the speaker's drift, which is to lure them from their present design by the hope of French plunder. He bids them spare England, and go to France, and encourages them by telling them that all is ready for their expedition; that they have *strength*, and the king has *money*.

JOHNSON.

654. ——*I was made a king, at nine months old*:] So all the historians agree. And yet in Part I. p. 252, king Henry is made to say,

“ I do remember how my father said,” &c.  
a plain proof that the whole of that play was not written by the same hand as this.

BLACKSTONE.

I do not perceive any impropriety on this occasion. We all remember the sayings of people who died long before we were born.

STEEVENS.

676. *Of Gallow-glasses, and stout Kernes*,] These were two orders of foot-soldiers among the Irish. See Dr. Warburton's note on the second scene of the first act of *Macbeth*.

STEEVENS.



700. *A garden in Kent*] Holinshed p. 635, says: “——a gentleman of Kent, named Alexander Eden, awaited so his time, that he tooke the said Cade in a garden in Sussex, so that there he was slaine at Hothfield,” &c.

Instead of the soliloquy with which the present scene begins, the quarto has only this stage direction: *Enter Jack Cade at one doore, and the other M. Alexander Eyden and his men; and Jack Cade lies down picking of hearbes, and eating them.* STEEVENS.

710. ——*but for a sallet, my brain-pan, &c.*] A *sallet* by corruption from *cælata*, a helmet (says Skinner) *quia galeæ cælatae fuerunt.* POPE.

So, in Sir Thomas North’s translation of *Plutarch*, “——One of the company seeing Brutus athirst also, he ran to the river for water, and brought it in his *sallet*.”

Again, *Ibid*: “Some were driven to fill their *sallets* and murrains with water.”

Again, in *The longer thou livest the more fool thou art*, 1570:

“This will beare away a good rappe,

“As good as a *sallet* to me verilie.” STEEVENS.

I do not see by what rules of etymology, *sallet* can be formed from *cælata*. Is it not rather a corruption from the French *salut*, taken, I suppose, from the scriptural phrase, the *helmet of salvation*? *Brain-pan*, for skull, occurs, I think in Wicliff’s translation of Judges, xix. 53. WHALLEY.



752. *As for more words, whose greatness answers words,*

*Let this my sword report what speech forbears.]*

More has been added by some of the modern editors. It is not in the first or second folio. This passage is not in the quarto. MALONE.

767. *—when I am dead:]* How Iden was to hang a sword over his own tomb, after he was dead, it is not easy to explain. The sentiment is more correctly expressed in the quarto:

Oh, sword, 'Ill honour thee for this, and in my chamber

Shalt thou hang, as a monument to after age,  
For this great service thou hast done to me.

STEEVENS.

*And hang thee*, only means, *I will have thee hang*. The same kind of expression is found in *The Winter's Tale*: “If thou'lt see a thing *to talk on*, when thou art dead and rotten——” *i. e.* for people to talk on. MALONE.

775. *How much thou wrong'st me,——]* *i. e.* in supposing that I am proud of my victory. JOHNSON.

778. *So wish I, I might thrust thy soul to hell.]* The quarto is more favourable both to Iden's morality and language. It omits this savage wish, and makes him only add, after the lines I have just quoted:

I'll drag him hence, and with my sword.

Cut off his head, and bear it to the king.

The player editors seem to have preferred want of humanity and common sense, to fewness of lines, and defect of versification. STEEVENS.

ACT



ACT V.

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Line 9. — *BALANCE* it] *i. e.* Balance my hand.

JOHNSON.

10. *A sceptre shall it have, have I a soul;*] I think York means to say—If I have a soul, my hand shall not be without a sceptre.

STEEVENS.

81. *May Iden, &c.*] Iden has said before:

*Lord! who would live turmoiled in a court,*

*And may enjoy, &c.*

Shakspeare makes Iden rail at those enjoyments which he supposes to be out of his reach; but no sooner are they offered to him but he readily accepts them.

ANONYMOUS.

120. *Shall be their father's bail; and bane to those]* Considering how our author loves to play on words similar in their sound, but opposite in their signification, I make no doubt but the author wrote *bail* and *bale*. *Bale* (from whence our common adjective, *baleful*) signifies detriment, ruin, misfortune, &c.

THEOBALD.

*Bale* signifies sorrow. Either word may serve.

JOHNSON.

132. — *a bedlam and ambitious humour]* The word *bedlam* was not used in the reign of king Henry the Sixth, nor was Bethlehem Hospital (vulgarly called Bedlam) converted into a house or hospital for lunatics



naticks till the reign of king Henry the Eighth, who gave it to the city of London for that purpose. GREY.

146. — *fell lurking curs:*] Mr. Roderick would read “*fell barking;*” the author of the *Revisal* “*fell lurching;*” but perhaps, by *fell lurking*, is meant curs who are at once a compound of *cruelty and treachery*.

STEEVENS.

151. *Oft have I seen, &c.*] Bear-baiting was anciently a royal sport. See Stow’s *Account of Queen Elizabeth’s Amusements of this kind*; and Laneham’s *Letter concerning that Queen’s Entertainment at Kenilworth Castle*.

PERCY.

The one of whom has adopted his description from the other.

HENLEY.

200. — *burgonet,*] Is a *helmet*. JOHNSON.

So, in the *Martyr’d Soldier*, 1638:

“ — now tye

“ Strong charms upon my full plum’d *burgonet*.”

STEEVENS.

202. — *my father’s badge,* — ] The quarto reads — *age*. STEEVENS.

215. *Foul stigmatick,*] A *stigmatick* is one on whom nature has set a mark of deformity, or a stigma.

STEEVENS.

243. *A dreadful lay!*] A dreadful wager; a tremendous stake. JOHNSON.

244. *La fin couronne les œuvres.*] The players read, *La fin corrone les eumenes*. STEEVENS.

*York kills Clifford,*] Our author has here departed from the truth of history, a practice not uncommon to



to him when he does his utmost to make his characters considerable. This circumstance, however, serves to prepare the reader or spectator for the vengeance afterwards taken by Clifford's son on *York* and *Rutland*.

It is remarkable, that, at the beginning of the third part of this historical play, the poet has forgot this occurrence, and there represents Clifford's death as it really happened :

“ *Lord Clifford and Lord Stafford all abrest*

“ *Charg'd our main battle's front, and breaking in,*

“ *Were by the swords of common soldiers slain.*”

PERCY.

257. *And the premised flames——*] *Premised*, for sent before their time. The sense is, let the flames reserved for the last day be sent now. **WARBURTON.**

261. *To cease!*] Is to *stop*, a verb active. So, in *Timon* :

“ *—————be not ceas'd*

“ *With slight denial——*”

STEEVENS.

262. *——to atchieve*] Is, to obtain. **JOHNSON.**

263. *The silver livery of advised age;*] *Advised*, is wise, experienced. **MALONE.**

271. *——to my flaming wrath be oil and flax.*] So, in *Hamlet* :

“ *To flaming youth let virtue be as wax,*

“ *And melt in her own fire.*”

STEEVENS.

279. The quarto copy has these lines,

Even so will I.—But stay, here's one of them,

To whom my soul hath sworn immortal hate.

*Enter*



*Enter Richard, and then Clifford lays down his father, fights him, and Richard flies away again.*

Out, crook'd-back'd villain! get thee from my sight!

But I will after thee, and once again  
(When I have borne my father to his tent)  
I'll try my fortune better with thee yet.

*[Exit young Clifford with his father.]*

STEEVENS.

282. *So, lie thou there;——*

*For, underneath an ale-house' paltry sign,  
The Castle in saint Alban's, Somerset  
Hath made the wizard famous——]*

The particle *for*, in the second line, seems to be used without any very apparent inference. We might read,

*Fall'n underneath an ale-house' paltry sign, &c.*

Yet the alteration is not necessary; for the old reading is sense, though obscure. JOHNSON.

Thus the passage stands in the quarto,

*Rich.* So lie thou there, and tumble in thy blood!

What's here? the sign of the Castle?

Then the prophecy is come to pass;

For Somerset was forewarned of castles,

The which he always did observe; and now,

Behold, under a paltry ale-house sign,

The Castle in saint Alban's, Somerset

Hath made the wizard famous by his death.

STEEVENS.

The quarto, though manifestly made out by the ear,



ear, by some unskilful short-hand writer, has generally something like the poet's sense, though seldom his words. The reading which it here exhibits induces me to think that a line was omitted at the press, when the folio was printing. It might have been of this purport:

*Behold, the prophecy is come to pass;*

For underneath, &c.

MALONE.

285. ———*famous in his death.*——] The death of Somerset here accomplishes that equivocal prediction given by Jourdain, the witch, concerning this duke; which we met with at the close of the first act of this play:

“*Let him shun castles:*

“*Safer shall he be upon the sandy plains,*

“*Than where castles mounted, stand.*”

*i. e.* the representation of a castle mounted for a sign.

THEOBALD.

303. ———*all our present parts.*] Should we not read  
———*party?*

THYRWHITT.

346. *Away, my lord, away!*] The quarto has given the king three lines before his exit:

Come then, fair queen, to London let us haste,

And summon up a parliament with speede,

To stop the fury of these dyre events.

MALONE.

309. ———*brush of time;*] Read *bruise* of time.

WARBURTON.

The *brush of time*, is the gradual detrition of time.

The



The old reading I suppose to be the true one. So, in *Timon*:

“ ———one winter’s *brush*.” STEEVENS.

310. ———gallant in the brow of youth,] The brow of youth is an expression not very easily explained. I read *the blow of youth*; the blossom, the spring.

JOHNSON.

The *brow of youth* is the *height of youth*, as the brow of a hill is its summit. So, in *Othello*:

“ ———the head and *front* of my offending.”

Again, in *K. John*:

“ Why here walk I in the black *brow* of night.”

STEEVENS.

316. *Three times bestride him*; ———] *i. e.* Three times I saw him fallen, and striding over him, defended him till he recovered.

JOHNSON.

329. *Being opposites of such repairing nature*.] Being enemies that are likely so soon to rally and recover themselves from this defeat.

MALONE.

THE END.





Annotations upon King Henry V. and King Henry VI. part I

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